

Fall 2017

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

The Rector's Letter



This is my last article for the Angelus. In thinking about what to write, I realized that more than anything it was important for me to express my gratitude to this parish for all the ways you have blessed me during these last seven years.

It has been a blessing to work with many of you on both church and community activities. I appreciate your vision, your willingness to make and follow through on commitments, your creativity, your passion, your concern for those in need, your generosity and your sense of humor. Whether feeding the visitors at Grace's Kitchen, hashing things out in vestry meetings, cleaning the church for special events, or any number of other things, you have managed to maintain a level of affection and cooperation which is admirable.

I am also grateful for the way in which so many of you have welcomed me into your lives, both for joyful events but also in situations of stress or sadness. I hope my presence has been one of encouragement and comfort. I know that your willingness to share your lives with me has been a personal source of growth and enrichment for me. I have been privileged to witness the depth and power of your faith in all sorts of situations. I have been moved and inspired by your examples of affection and commitment, of courage and hope in times of loss and mourning, of determination in times of difficulty, of thankfulness and joy in times of celebration, of faithfulness in situations of long term hardship, of generosity in times of need, and of faith and vision in the face of injustice. I have been humbled and strengthened by the witness to Christ's love that I have seen in you.

Thank you also for seven years of worship together! That has been the heart of our life as a church. There are so many things that work together to make worship come alive. The beauty of this building, kept clean and in order, the flowers, the work of the Altar Guild, the readers and Eucharistic ministers and acolytes, the choir and the instruments, the lay readers, the congregational participation, our Episcopal liturgy – They all contribute toward worship that is both challenging and renewing. We have gathered for baptisms and funerals and weddings, for holidays, for simple noonday services, for bi-lingual celebrations, and each Sunday for the Eucharist. It has been a privilege to preside over our worship, and I will miss that experience. I have felt God's presence as we have gathered together, and I am confident that God loves this parish and will continue to help it to grow in ways pleasing to God.

Thank you for all you have shared with Barbra and me over these years!

Este es mi último artículo para el Angelus. Pensar en qué escribir, me di cuenta de que más que nada, era importante para mí expresar mi gratitud a esta parroquia para todas las formas que me han bendecido durante estos últimos siete años.

Ha sido una bendición para trabajar con muchos de ustedes sobre las actividades de la iglesia y la comunidad. Aprecio su visión, su voluntad de hacer y cumplir compromisos, su creatividad, su pasión, su preocupación por los necesitados, su generosidad y su sentido del humor. Si la alimentación de los visitantes a la cocina de Grace, discutiendo y decidiendo cosas en las reuniones de la Junta Parroquial, limpiando de la iglesia para eventos especiales, o cualquier número de otras cosas, han logrado mantener un nivel de afecto y cooperación que es admirable.

También estoy agradecido por la manera en que muchos de ustedes me han dado la bienvenida en vuestras vidas, tanto para eventos alegres, pero también en situaciones de estrés o tristeza. Espero que mi presencia haya sido de aliento y consuelo. Sé que su deseo de compartir sus vidas conmigo ha sido una fuente personal de crecimiento y enriquecimiento para mí. He tenido el privilegio ser testigo de la profundidad y el poder de su fe en todo tipo de situaciones. He sido movido e inspirado por sus ejemplos de afecto y compromiso, de coraje y esperanza en tiempos de pérdida y duelo, de determinación en tiempos de dificultad, de gratitud y alegría en tiempos de celebración, de fidelidad en situaciones de dificultades a largo plazo, de la generosidad en tiempos de necesidad y de fe y visión frente a la injusticia. He sido fortalecido por el testimonio de amor de Cristo que he visto en ti.

Gracias también por siete años de la adoración juntos. Ese ha sido el corazón de nuestra vida como iglesia. Hay tantas cosas que trabajan juntos para hacer adoración en vivo. La belleza de este edificio, limpio y en orden, las flores, el trabajo del Altar Guild, los lectores y ministros Eucarísticos y acólitos, el coro y los instrumentos, los lectores, la participación congregacional, nuestra liturgia Episcopal – todos ellos contribuyen a la adoración que es desafiante y renovadora. Nos hemos reunido para bautizos y entierros y bodas, para fiestas, para los servicios de mediodía simple, para las celebraciones del bilingüe y cada domingo a la Eucaristía. Ha sido un privilegio presidir nuestra adoración, y le echo de menos esa experiencia. He sentido la presencia de Dios cuando nos hemos reunidos, y yo confío en que Dios ama a esta parroquia y Grace/La Gracia continuará a crecer de manera agradable a Dios.

Gracias por todos los que ha compartido con Barbra y a mí en estos años!

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Rector Father Richard Kunz
Editor Mary Baker
Contributor Karen Odom, Father Adolfo Moronta, Mary Baker, Jean Marie Angelo, Cynthia Sanguirima-Brown, Walter Simon, Verna Brown, Sylvia Simon
Distributor Maria Campos

Grace in Transition



Grace Church has experienced a great deal of change during the past several years. We initially reduced our budget by fifty percent, Sandy Gustaferrero and Tim Lewis left Grace after many

years of service. Maria Campos became the new bi-lingual Parish Secretary. La Gracia experienced multiple changes, resulting in the calling of Fr. Adolfo as Associate Rector in May. In addition to the loss of several parishioners, we lost a beloved fixture at Grace's Kitchen, Charlie Bevier. Grace Church Community Center (GCCC) got a new name, Lifting Up Westchester (LUW). A new Executive Director of LUW, Anahaita Kotval replaced Paul Anderson-Winchell, who retired after many years of dedicated service to the organization. Now, after seven years, our Rector, Fr Richard Kunz will retire at the end of October.

Needless to say, these changes have been difficult to adjust to. Nevertheless we are all amazed by the resilience of the Grace Church family. Despite the changes and the intermittent disruptions, we still make time to celebrate each other and to do God's work in the community. The newest members of our community, have noticed this. Fr Adolfo, finds new meaning in working with both the English and Spanish speaking parishioners of Grace/La Garcia, the homeless and those needing spiritual counseling and support. Maria Campos, appreciates the parishioners who lend a helping hand in the office and take the time to greet her dad who is spending the summer with her. Also, during the summer, Anahaita Kotval hosted coffee hour at Grace and was warmly received.

However, we are still apprehensive about the calling of a new Rector. We shall miss Fr Kunz's quiet presence and droll sense of humor. Others will miss his "on point" sermons delivered without script or teleprompter. We welcomed his leadership among the organization of local spirituals leaders. He has helped us to start reclaiming more of the social activism which is part of our heritage. Any parishioner who has been ill or needed spiritual counseling during times of stress or moments of joy could count on him to "be there".

Dr. Barbra was so much more than first lady. She has been a vital member of our community. She is a valued member of the Book Club and the Welcoming Committee. She coordinated the Family Service each month and she developed SAGE which allows the most senior members of our community to meet and discuss experiences/concerns monthly. In addition, anyone who has had a medical problem could count on her to give an incisive second opinion. Needless to say, it will be hard to replace this "dynamic duo". We wish them well and that they go with all of our blessing and love as they enter the next phase of their lives.

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your co-pilot – swap seats!

Prayer: Don't give God instructions—just report for duty!

SAVE THE DATES

September 10th: On September 10th we will be celebrating the beginning of another school year. There will be one bi-lingual bi-musical service at 10:00 a.m. This will also be Book Bag Sunday, and anyone who is a student is welcome to participate.

After the service, we will be enjoying a picnic at Ridge Road Park. This is a chance for all of us to be together in a relaxed setting, enjoying food, games and music. Pray for good weather!

September 13th: The Bible study with Father Kunz will resume on September 13th for five sessions. It starts at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m.

September 23rd: Come and join with the members of Grace/La Gracia as they gather for a festive evening of food and fun to celebrate the Central America's Independence. The party takes place in the Parish Hall from 5 – 10 p.m. There will be a buffet, dancing, competitions, and lots of Latin music. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$25 per person with children. But sure not to miss this!

October 1st: On October 1st at 4:30 we will be gathering for Evensong. This is meant to be a thanksgiving celebration for the seven years we have shared together with Father Kunz as our rector. Peter and the choir are preparing special music, and there will be a reception in the parish hall following the service.

October 14th: On Saturday, October 14th, the second annual Global Mission Fair will take place at Christ Church, Bronxville. The presentations this year will be about stories of transformation brought about through global mission. Transformation takes place on three levels; those who receive the ministry, those who carry it out, and the parish that sends the mission team. Come and hear stories of how lives and parishes have been changed through global outreach.

October 15th: On Sunday, October 15th, we will celebrate the Feast of S. Luke, patron saint of physicians. All physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, social workers, pastoral care team members and any other persons involved in the healing professions are invited to receive a special blessing during the 10:00 a.m. service.



THE FUTURE OF LATINO MINISTRY/ NUEVOS HORIZONTES CONFERENCE

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

From July 31st to August the 3rd lay and clergy Latinos involved in Latino Ministry got together in Houston, Texas for the bi-annual conference “Nuevos Horizontes.” Nuevos Horizontes, is sponsored by the Seminary of the Southwest in collaboration with the Latino/Hispanic Ministries of the Episcopal Church, and it explores a Latino ministry for today and the future which includes all Latino generations, whether they be Spanish or English-speaking, immigrant or U.S.-born. Through plenaries and workshops, the Conference offers tools and information concerning the fast-paced Latino acculturation and it enables the participants to become more aware of the various models of Latino ministry in the U.S., particularly among the youth and the demographic segment known as the Millennials.

In this conference in which I had the opportunity to represent Grace/La Gracia it was emphasized that we should not think of Latino Ministry as Spanish only since today Latino Ministry is composed not only of 1st generation Latinos (which have Spanish as their main language), but also of 2nd and 3rd generations Latinos that are primarily English speakers. Therefore, the near future of Latino



Ministry will be bilingual, and services will be a blend of Spanish and English (some parts will be in Spanish and others in English). This major change will need to take place since

we need to pay close attention to the Latino youth also called the Millennials which are those born after 1984, and whom at the same time are future of this ministry.

According to the speakers in this event, another main focus that Latino Congregations need to have is Social Media. It was said that technology is synonym of the 21st century and now days the place where people look to find a church is social media. A good use of social media talks about the vitality of a congregation and helps establish a relationship via internet with the congregation's friends.



The richness of “Nuevos Horizontes” also derives from the sharing of experiences between lay and clergy participants of what is happening across the country in Latino

congregations. I am pleased to share that out of the congregations present in the conference La Gracia has the second largest attendance of parishioners every Sunday.

Next year, those working in Latino Ministry will also have the opportunity to attend “Nuevo Amanecer” from August 27-30. “Nuevo Amanecer” is the largest Latino Conference which offers practical tools and a network of support to better equip Latino Ministry. In summary, as the Holy Spirit continues to work in us and in the church, we need to be open to His different manifestations and how He leads us to an era of change.

EL FUTURO DEL MINISTERIO LATINO / CONFERENCIA NUEVOS HORIZONTES

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Del 31 de Julio al 3 de Agosto, latinos y clérigos involucrados en el ministerio latino se reunieron en Houston, Texas para la conferencia bi-anual "Nuevos Horizontes". Nuevos Horizontes, es patrocinado por el Seminario del Suroeste en colaboración con el ministerio Latino / Hispano de

la Iglesia Episcopal, y explora un ministerio latino para hoy y el futuro que incluye a todas las generaciones latinas, ya sea que hablen Español, Ingles o sean inmigrantes o nacidos en Estados Unidos. A través de sesiones plenarias y talleres, la Conferencia ofrece herramientas e información sobre la aculturación latina acelerada y permite a los participantes ser más conscientes de los diversos modelos de ministerio latino en los Estados Unidos, particularmente entre los jóvenes y el segmento demográfico conocido como Millennials .

En esta conferencia en la que tuve la oportunidad de representar a Grace / La Gracia se enfatizó que no deberíamos pensar en el ministerio latino como algo que solo se realice en español porque hoy el Ministerio Latino está compuesto no solo de Latinos de primera generación (que tienen como idioma principal el español) , Pero también de latinos de segunda y tercera generaciones que son principalmente hablantes de inglés. Por lo tanto, el futuro cercano del Ministerio Latino será bilingüe, y los servicios serán una mezcla de español e inglés (algunas partes serán en español y otras en inglés). Este cambio importante tendrá que ocurrir ya que necesitamos prestar mucha atención a los jóvenes latinos también llamados los Millenials que son los nacidos después de 1984, y que al mismo tiempo son el futuro de este ministerio.

Según los exponentes en este evento, otro enfoque principal que las Congregaciones Latinas necesitan tener son los Medios de Comunicación Social. Se dijo que la tecnología es sinónimo del siglo 21 y ahora el lugar donde la gente busca para encontrar una iglesia son los medios de comunicación social. Se estableció que un buen uso de las redes sociales habla sobre la vitalidad de una congregación y ayuda a establecer una relación a través de Internet con los amigos de la página de internet de la congregación.

La riqueza de "Nuevos Horizontes" también se deriva del intercambio de experiencias entre laicos y clérigos participantes de lo que está sucediendo en todo el país en las congregaciones latinas. Me complace compartir que de las congregaciones presentes en la conferencia La Gracia tiene la segunda mayor asistencia de feligreses cada domingo.

El próximo año, quienes trabajan en el Ministerio Latino también tendrán la oportunidad de asistir a "Nuevo Amanecer" del 27 al 30 de agosto. "Nuevo Amanecer" es la más grande Conferencia Latina que ofrece herramientas prácticas y una red de apoyo para equipar mejor al Ministerio Latino. En resumen, como el Espíritu Santo continúa trabajando en nosotros y en la iglesia, necesitamos estar abiertos a Sus diferentes manifestaciones y a la era de cambios hacia la cual el nos conduce.

REMINDER – CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

November 5th – Standard time has resumed for the year. Did you move your clock back one hour last night? If not, you will be very early for church!

Below is a letter Verna Brown wrote to the Rev. Al Sharpton, a former student of hers. I thought it was worth sharing with our congregation.

Bethel Nursing Home
Croton, NY

Dear Alfred,

You will always be "Alfred" to me! I want you to know how pleased and sad, in a way that I'll explain later - to see you in support and defense of Andrea Stewart - Cousins from the racist rant



of a colleague whose name I refuse to write.

The incident took me back to the "old days" when as a high school activist you had to speak out against the bigotry and ignorance of the faculty and student body who raged against the invitation of Sister Betty Shabazz to address the Tilden High School Black Students Association. How sad that you are confronting the same situation today!

Dr Shabazz and I, through the ensuing years became "Betty" and "Verna" as mothers in Jack and Jill, and sorority sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, often working on the same committee. I feel a similar kinship with State Senator Stewart Cousins who has been my representative for a long time. Your defense of her made the teacher in me puff up with pride. So as your old teacher, I have one last assignment for you.

Assignment - favor me with a brief visit any day soon between twelve and three - thirty PM

Reason for visit - to pray with me
Due date - optional, but the sooner the better.
I know you are busy, but I am counting on you to fulfill this " assignment"
Proudly, your old teacher,
" Mrs Brown "

What does Stewardship mean to me?

“...Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna, the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were *helping to support them out of their own means*.”

Luke, Chapter 8, Verses 1 – 3

“... Jesús comenzó a recorrer las ciudades y aldeas, proclamando y anunciando las buenas nuevas del reino de Dios; con El iban los doce, y también algunas mujeres que habían sido sanadas de espíritus malos y de enfermedades: María, llamada Magdalena, de la que habían salido siete demonios, y Juana, mujer de Chuza, mayordomo de Herodes, y Susana, y muchas otras que *de sus bienes personales contribuían al sostenimiento de ellos*.”

Lucas, Capítulo 8, Versículos 1-3

What does Stewardship mean to me?

¿Qué significa mayordomía para mí?

When I first attended Grace Church, the term “stewardship” was unfamiliar to me. As I heard “time, talent and treasure” all I assumed was “Oh, money...” – that was an incomplete picture. Similar to when PBS does its pledge drives, stewardship is a necessary component of what we do to accomplish our goals. Those goals include Sunday services and ministry, providing comfort to those in need, enabling members to find an outlet for social justice and to pay for the expenses incurred by our house of worship.

Cuando primero asistí a la Iglesia Grace, el término mayordomía era desconocida para mí. Tal como cuando escuchaba, tiempo, talento y tesoro y asumía que era Ah, dinero- cuando no lo era. Al igual como cuando PBS tiene su campaña de donación, mayordomía es un componente necesario de lo que hacemos para lograr nuestras metas. Estas metas incluyen las misas y ministerios del domingo, consolar a los necesitados, posibilitar a los miembros un medio de justicia social y para pagar los gastos incurridos por nuestro templo.

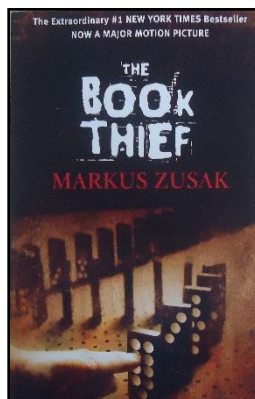
So what does Stewardship mean to me... when I look at the front of our church and see the old high altar, I am reminded of our gone-to-glory member Flora Porras. A few years ago, she approached Father Rich and asked if she could spruce up the old high altar. Flora was artistically talented and delicately cleaned the old paint and re-painted it. When I look up, I am reminded of

her presence, how lucky I was to have known her and how blessed my daughter was to have had Flora as a Sunday School teacher. Flora's time and talent are there, right up front; to me, that's a lovely reminder of what a good steward is.

Entonces, ¿qué es mayordomía para mí?... como cuando veo la frente de nuestra iglesia y veo el viejo alto altar, me hace recordar de nuestra alabada hermana, Flora Porras. Hace unos años, ella se dirigió al Padre Rich y le preguntó si ella podía arreglar el viejo alto altar. Flora tenía una vena artística y cuidadosamente se dedicó a limpiarlo y pintarlo. Ahora cuando lo veo, me hace recordarle a ella, de mi suerte de haberle conocido y la dichosa de que mi hija le había tenido como su maestra de catequesis. El tiempo y la vena de Flora está allí, enfrente de mí. Este es un hermoso recuerdo de lo que es ser un buen mayordomo.

Cynthia Sangurima

GRACE CHURCH BOOK CLUB RETURNS FOR ITS 18TH SEASON



The Grace Church Book Club will open its next season at Gaucho Grill in White Plains on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 12:00 pm, when we'll dish and dine. In between bites and sips, members will review their summer selection, **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak, an historical novel set in 1939 Nazi Germany that tells the story of 12-year-old Liesel and the stolen books that help her and others survive.

What makes the book club so appealing? In the words of some of our members...

"I get to read books and authors that I may not have chosen if left on my own to select. Different genres are accessible to me, thanks to member selections. Our discussions are lively and free-wheeling—I usually end up learning something new about a particular book, author, or club member!"

Dr. Barbra McCune

“I resisted joining the book club. I thought I would rather choose my own books. I was wrong. I have loved having my horizons widened. It’s also very special for book lovers to get together to discuss what we’ve read. I still read many of my own chosen books, but I now cherish getting together with others who share my passion.”

Mary Baker

“I love the warm welcome to newcomers and the different perspectives the diverse group brings to each book.”

Karen Finkbe

“I wasn’t a member in the beginning, but I do enjoy the evening book discussions, refreshments, and the camaraderie. Our summer book, **The Book Thief**, is a wonderful read and I look forward to our discussion in September.”

Irene Alves

“I often have not finished, or nearly finished the book selection, but I enjoy the company and opinions of others as I complete the volume with a different outlook and better understanding.”

Christine Scott-Deutsche

“I appreciate and enjoy the book club. We have read interesting books and I find the discussions fun, as well as enjoyable.”

Laura Auld

Interested in sharing lunch with us on Sept. 16 or joining the book club this season? Contact Karen Odom at karenodom@yahoo.com!

Submitted by Karen Odom

THANKSGIVING – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Mary Baker

Most of us know the story of the first Thanksgiving celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Indians in Massachusetts. But the story should be updated.

A few years ago, I received a message sent out by my friend Terry. This message greatly added to my appreciation of Thanksgiving. I think you might appreciate her thoughts also. So thank you, Terry, for the following:

“Last night my family took a Thanksgiving trip to what, to me, is one of the most sacred spots for celebrating Thanksgiving. We went to Wall Street. There, diagonally across the street from the Stock Exchange, is the Federal Hall Building. On the outside of the building for all to see, you will find the classic engraving of George Washington praying. It was placed there because

at that site the first president of the United States was inaugurated. In his inauguration speech, Washington requests that the Lord's 'divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views.' And a few months later, at that site was read one of the most important government documents ever produced: The call for our nation to set aside a day to be 'observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God.'

The top of the Washington Monument is the highest point in Washington DC. On each side of the cap, words were engraved so that every morning when the sun rises over our nation's capital, the morning light first hits one spot before anywhere else in the city. It is in this spot where these words are engraved: Laus Deo (Praise to God.)

I pray that we all, like so many leaders before us, remind everyone whom we give thanks to on this day."

Written by my friend Terry!

A Thanksgiving Declaration from George Washington – NYC 1789

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:" Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all,

whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3rd day of October, A.D. 1789.

James Madison – 1815

The senate and House of Representatives of the United States have by a joint resolution signified their desire that a day may be recommended to be observed by the people of the United States with religious solemnity as a day of thanksgiving and of devout acknowledgments to Almighty God for His great goodness manifested in restoring to them the blessing of peace. No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of Events of the Destiny of Nations than the people of the United States. His kind providence originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allotted for the great family of the human race.

Abraham Lincoln – 1863

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

Franklin Roosevelt – 1930

Notwithstanding that our forefathers endured the hardships and privations of a primitive life, surrounded by dangers and solaced only with meager comforts, they nevertheless bequeathed to us a custom of devoting one day of every year to universal thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the blessing of life itself and the means to sustain it, for the sanctuary of home and the joys that pervade it, and for the mercies of His protection from accident, sickness, or death. Our country has many causes for thanksgiving. We have been blessed with distinctive evidence of divine favor...

John F. Kennedy – 1961

I urge all citizens to make this Thanksgiving not merely a holiday from their labors, but rather a day of contemplation. I ask the head of each family to recount to his children the story of the first New England Thanksgiving thus to impress upon future generations the heritage of this nation born in toil, in danger, in purpose, and in the conviction that right and justice and freedom can through man's efforts persevere and come to fruition with the blessing of God.

Bill Clinton – 1996

Let us now, this Thanksgiving Day, reawaken ourselves and our neighbors and our communities to the genius of our founders daring to build the world's first constitutional democracy on the foundation of trust and thanks to God.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Grace/La Gracia Church as a Stage Set

Many parishioners may not be aware that Grace Church was used by various film producers as a backdrop for movies and or TV productions. This began with a pilot two years ago, then followed with the filming of a “Billions” episode. On September the 21st Steven Spielberg used Church Street to film a scene set in the nineteen seventies. Most of the structures on Church Street were used. On September 1st, HBO would also like to use Grace’s facilities while filming. In addition, we have since learned that CBS is interested in using our facility to film “Elementary.”

One might wonder why the church is a desirable site for filming or staging. In speaking to site managers, it became apparent that it is difficult to accommodate all of the individuals and equipment needed to film a scene. The layout of the church seems to be ideal. In the past, the parish hall, parlor, bathrooms, library and class rooms were used. So far, we have not received a request to create a scene involving a church service, funeral or wedding.

One might ask why a religious institution would allow its facilities to be used for this purpose. The short answer is income. The average payment for the use of the church for one day is between five and seven thousand dollars. Most churches are struggling to maintain their finances. It has become increasingly difficult to do so. So many find additional sources of income. We have been fortunate in as much as we have managed to increase our endowment and to limit the drawdown of funds. Yet, it is becoming increasingly apparent that we must enhance our ability to increase income in order to grow. Movie production at Grace is just one of several strategies that can be successfully employed to achieve this goal. When we were first approached by a production site supervisor to use our church as a staging facility, we were apprehensive. However, thus far, the synergy between the church and the production companies has been ideal. For the most part, we have made certain that the filming occurs when the church facilities are not in use. We never forget our primary purpose, to address the needs of our parishioners and the Grace’s Kitchen and Samaritan House clients who depend upon us. For example, when the Grace’s Kitchen was required to relocate for the day, we made sure that the clients were accommodated at White Plains Presbyterian Church.

The filming bug appears to be contagious. Maya Daughtry, an acolyte and a member of J2A, enrolled in a summer course in script writing and production at Sarah Lawrence College. She used the church facilities to produce a short ten minute film based upon her short story “A Better Place” which was previously published in the church Angelus.

As we continue this new relationship, we must never forget our primary purpose, to support the church in its advocacy for those less fortunate and to spread God’s word throughout the community. God has blessed us with this new source of revenue to do his work.

Repast Options

Most families arrange for private repasts.

Some families have inquired about the feasibility of hosting a repast in the Parish Hall of the church.

Unfortunately, there are logistical challenges which make, it difficult to arrange a repast at the church. We have Grace's Kitchen which serves lunch from Monday to Friday. Consequently, the parish hall is not available to host a repast before noon. In addition, we do not have the personnel to assist with a repast held in the parish hall.

Option No. 1

Should a family decide to use the Grace Church Parish Hall, they must provide all of the refreshments and necessary items needed for serving food and beverages as well as the linen needed to cover the tables. Approval will be needed to prepare any hot foods. In addition there would be a financial cost to have a Sexton available after 3 P.M.

Option No. 2

Recognizing the need and advantage of having a near-by facility for a repast, we reached out to La Bocca Restaurant directly across the street from Grace. They have agreed to provide a repast brunch for any family who has a funeral at Grace Church at a reasonable cost. In addition the restaurant has a private room which can accommodate about sixty people.

Sylvia Simon

Lessons from the Holy Land: Christians Ask 'Remember Us'

In my last reflection I spoke about the places in the Holy Land most moving to us. Arlene Grant, Ann Post, and I went on a pilgrimage in 2016 with other Episcopalians. There we were introduced to the Fifth Gospel, which is the land itself. The land and locations; the people and traditions; are all part of sacred geography and our sacred story.

I was prepared to walk for miles each day, to listen to scripture, and learn about architecture and art. What I wasn't prepared for were the tensions between the people in the Holy Land and the followers of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In a very vague way I knew there were centuries of history: wars, terrorist attacks, fighting between Arabs and Jews. I had very little awareness of the plight of Palestinian Christians, whose presence is dwindling in the Holy Land. The political and religious tensions between Palestinian Arabs and the the State of Israel cast a long shadow on the Christian residents. It is difficult for Palestinians — whether Arab or Christian — to pass between Israeli and Palestinian territories. Waiting at check points to move from home or a place of work can sometimes take hours. The priest and chaplain at St. George's Cathedral in East Jerusalem told our group that it sometimes takes him most of the day to move through the checkpoint that is necessary to reach the children's hospital where he does ministry. During our time there, our bus was stopped several times at checkpoints, and we were asked by young Israeli soldiers to list our comings and goings.

Our pilgrimage showed us the concrete experience of the barriers that run through the City of Bethlehem that separate the Israeli territory from the Palestinian area. In response, Palestinians have created a public art project, painting their personal stories and images on the wall.

Our guide, Canon Iyad Qumri, a Palestinian Christian with credentials to travel in Israeli and Palestinian territories, was constantly pointing out to us the difficulties of Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. There are areas where Palestinians are instructed not to go. There are different highways for travel for vehicles with Israeli and Palestinian license plates. One side argues that the barriers are necessary for safety. The other side declares that they are living under apartheid. While there I could only be a witness to the reality and experience the frustration of a system that may never change. While there, and in the months since, I have vowed to keep an open mind and to continue learning and keeping the Holy Land experience alive.

One morning we visited the Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children. This is just one of the many health and education centers supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. One Sunday we attended mass at an Episcopal church in Nazareth, an Israeli city with the largest Palestine population. Most poignantly, we visited the places where Jesus walked, and taught, and healed. One is Burqin Church, the site where Jesus healed 10 lepers. At every turn we supported the Palestinian Christian merchants and artisans who repeatedly implored us to not forget them. The church sells religious icons and prayer beads. A related group of merchants produces soap to support Burqin Church.

Arlene took the plea to heart. Since coming back, she has purchased soap directly from the Holy Land and resold it here. We continue to purchase, not only because it is great product, but because it keeps our connection to Palestinian Christians. This support helps — albeit in a small



way — those who keep the Christian tradition. Please contact Arlene at (914) 699-6494, or telegrant@gmail.com if you would like to place an order. To learn more about Christians in the Holy Land, please visit the website of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, (afedj.org).

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

***The Deadline For The Winter Angelus
Is November 15th. As Always, Thank You For
Your Contributions!***



PUMPKIN PRAYER
for a blessed Halloween

Dear Jesus,
As I carve my pumpkin, help me pray this prayer.

Open my mind so I can learn about You.
(Cut the top off the pumpkin)

Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do.
(Clean out the inside.)

Open my eyes so Your love I will see.
(Cut eyes shaped like hearts.)

I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at what You've given to me.
(Cut a nose in the shape of the cross.)

Open my ears so Your word I will hear.
(Cut ears shaped like the Bible.)

Open my mouth to tell others You're near.
(Cut the mouth in the shape of a fish.)

Let Your light shine in all I say and do!
Amen.
(Place a candle inside and light it.)

IF YOU ARE WORRIED OR AFRAID
Quotes from Corrie ten Boon (1892-1983)



Corrie ten Boom was one of the most godly, soul-rich individuals in Christian history. The ten Boom family were Dutch Christians who helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust of WWII. When their home was raided after an informant tipped off the Nazis of their activities, the entire family was imprisoned. Corrie and her sister were sent to a notorious Nazi concentration camp. She was miraculously released from prison just days after her sister had died there. God brought incredible beauty and healing through her difficult experiences, and her words still have great relevance and impact in our world today.

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have.

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer."

LET US GIVE THANKS!



"GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD"

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour the mill,
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower,
And the sun and the Father's will.
Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901)

When you reap the harvests of your land, you shall not reap to the
very corners of your field, nor gather the gleanings of your harvest;
you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 23:22

FACES OF GRACE







Rest in Peace



Lorraine Reid



William McAllister



Farewell!



The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH