

WINTER 2015

## Celebrating 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



# The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

### RECTOR'S LETTER



Mary and Joseph, as they shared the dreams and visions they had been given by God in preparation for the birth of Jesus, knew that they were participating in a divine drama. Something amazing and spiritual was happening in their lives. They were about to become the parents of the Messiah, the long-awaited savior of God's people.

They did not get to live out this divine call apart from mundane concerns. As the day for Mary to give birth approached, they found themselves caught up in a disruptive and disorienting social movement. Along with thousands of others, they had to travel in order to be recorded by and pay a tax to the Roman government. The logistics and stress of that journey must have preoccupied their minds and hearts, and perhaps at times overshadowed their more private spiritual journey.

Two thousand years later, however, the records from that census have been lost, the money raised by the tax has long been spent, and the Roman Empire itself has ceased to exist. But the child who was born to them still gives life and hope and forgiveness and grace to hundreds of millions of persons throughout the world.

All of us live out our spiritual lives in this confusing and sometimes overwhelming world. The media presents us with issues as trivial as the color of Starbucks coffee cups and as troubling as terrorism in Lebanon, Egypt and France. We have financial pressures, busy schedules, complicated family issues, health concerns, and competing demands. The mundane exerts immediate pressure on us. It is easy to forget that we are also on a spiritual path, part of God's divine drama. The acts of love, hope, faith, compassion, generosity, courage and fidelity that we do in the midst of those everyday pressures are the things that will last and will ultimately define who we are.

C. S. Lewis believed that for God, each individual who lived in faith was more important than any kingdom of this world. Those kingdoms, like Rome, come and go. Each of us is given the gift of eternal life.

During this Advent season, I hope you will not lose sight of the gift of the Spirit God has given each one of us. I pray that each one of us will find some opportunity to "be still", and realize that God is with us in this turbulent world, working out God's graceful will in our lives.

La Gracia is in a period of transition. Father Kunz has been working with them and with Canon Altagracia from the Diocese of NY to move into the next phase of their life together. Father Luis Barrios, who is a professor of forensic psychology at John Jay College, has been coming to preach and celebrate along with me and has been well received. In the meantime, some positive things are happening. Attendance has been good. We have had two meetings with Canon Altagracia to talk about some of the issues facing Grace/ La Gracia. Folks are stepping up to take responsibility. We had a special service to celebrate Santa Catalina, who is the patron saint of the town that Taurino and his family come from. We plan to have a special ceremony for the Virgin of Guadalupe. We have some new lay readers and a new young acolyte. The level of diocesan support for La Gracia is still being determined, but I am confident that La Gracia will come through this time of uncertainty successfully.

A steering committee has been meeting to help with the call of our next Director of Music. Karen Odom is the chair. Barbara Biles, Michael Heffner, Eileen McClean, Clyde Hicks and Margaret Broomfield-Parkinson are also members of this committee. The group prepared a survey which was distributed to the congregation in order to solicit opinions about our music program. If anyone knows good candidates, please pass those names on to the members of the committee, as we hope to soon be reaching out to potential candidates.

### **Calendar**

**Celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, 8:00PM December 11**

**Informal Caroling in front of the church, 4:00PM December 12**

**Lessons and Carols, December 13, 4:00 PM**

**Christmas Eve (Same as last year!)**

---

Dear Parishioners

Pledge Sunday was Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank everyone who has made a financial pledge. We also would like to thank everyone who gave of their time and talent to talk about Stewardship in the months leading up to Stewardship Sunday. In particular we would like to thank: Barbara Wiggins, Michael Heffner, Pat Hosten, Nancy Blum, The O'Hanlon Family, Stuart Madden and Angie Brown. Each spoke from his/her heart on "What Stewardship Means to them".

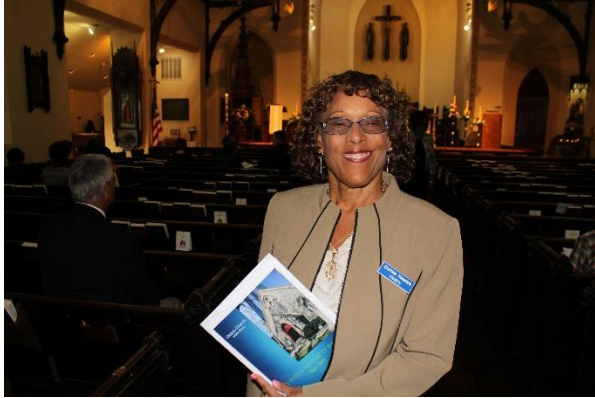
There are so many different programs that Grace Church is able to support because of the generous pledges that have been given by our parishioners. To mention just a few: We have a vibrant Sunday school, a program for our seniors, an outreach program for our shut ins, and a dynamic music program for our services.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee of Grace Church we ask that you prayerfully examine what Stewardship means to you and if you have not already pledged for 2016 that you make a pledge as soon as possible.

We hope that every member will become a proportionate giver. We truly believe that by doing this you will join a growing number of parishioners who experience joy and satisfaction in their daily lives.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Stewardship Committee



Charlotte Roberson



Brinda Bradley



## **Holiday Activities**

What's Happening & How You Can Help

By: Nancy Inzinna, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager

It's hard not to get caught up in the flurry of the holidays. Between the bright lights, holiday parties and decorations it's almost inevitable. Yet, at the same time, we feel compelled to share our good fortune. Knowing that there are so many individuals in need right here in affluent Westchester County, we want to find a way to make their Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's a little brighter.

You can share your good cheer and spirit of giving by supporting Lifting Up Westchester (LUW) in its many holiday activities. Here's how:

**Contribute to our holiday food drive.** LUW will be providing 2,000 holiday meals and delivering 400 holiday grocery bags this year. It takes a lot of food to make that happen and you can help by donating the following items (no glass jars please)

- Turkeys
- Hams
- Stuffing Mix
- Instant Potatoes
- Rice
- Gravy (canned or mix)
- Cranberry Sauce (jellied)
- Canned Vegetables (corn, yams or green beans)
- Dessert Mixes
- Coffee or Tea
- Condensed Milk
- Sugar or Sugar Substitute
- Pasta and Sauce
- Peanut Butter and Jam
- Canned Fruit
- Beans (all kinds)
- Soup

**Donate grocery gift cards.** Not everybody eats turkey and mashed potatoes for their holiday meal. Last year I decided to make culturally diverse food bags and they were a huge success. In addition to bags packed with stuffing, potatoes, and cranberry sauce, others included collard greens and macaroni & cheese, or rice, beans and condensed milk to make flan. Each of the culturally diverse bags also included a \$25 grocery store gift card so that recipients could purchase their own family's favorite main dish and maintain their own family traditions.

**Donate toys for children** in the Brighter Futures Mentoring Program. Our biggest need is for board games, art kits, jewelry kits, dolls, Lego sets, Playdoh sets, Nerf toys, and remote cars, gift certificates for Barnes and Noble, and Movie Theater Gift Cards.

**Donate Christmas gift cards for teens** in the Brighter Futures Mentoring Program. Teens are often forgotten when people think of donating items for Christmas. Because teens are notoriously hard to please we like to give the 90 teenagers in our high school and college prep program a \$25 gift certificate to Target, Kohl's, Walmart or Modell's so they can shop for themselves.

Whichever way you decide to help this year, your thoughtful gesture will make a phenomenal difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. Thank You!

**Contact Nancy Inzinna to make your donations:**  
[ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org](mailto:ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org) or 914-949-3098 ext. 9735



# **Bishop Michael Bruce Curry Installed as 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and Primate**

Irene Alves

At noon on Sunday, November 1, 2015, the Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry was installed as the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church at the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. . Bishop Curry was elected at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention on June 27, 2015 and is the first African- American Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

## **Washington National Cathedral**



I took the train to Washington, D. C. on Saturday morning and was met by my daughter Susan. It was an exciting trip for me and as much as I hate “the first Black to.....”I was looking forward to this experience. You would think in this day and time there would be no first Black

anything because we had all been given a chance to experience all the joys of this land. On Sunday morning my children took me to the National Cathedral. WOW!!!!Seating was to start at 11:15am but by that time the line leading to and around the cathedral was blocks and blocks long! But I managed to get inside and more importantly get a seat. Now I had to find Michael Heffner in the midst of over 5,000 people. Well as Michael said we were in God’s house and miracles do happen. I spotted him walking down the center aisle and beckoned to him. So we experienced the awesomeness of the cathedral and the sacredness of the service together. The diversity of the people was striking as was every aspect of the music, liturgy and ceremony. The service began with carillon, organ, choral and Native American Drumming preludes as the Washington National Cathedral , the Ecumenical and Interfaith , the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church Processions entered the Cathedral from the West End.

There was a knock at the Great West Doors and The Bishop of Washington and the Dean of the Cathedral opened the doors. The 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop entered and was welcomed and escorted into the Cathedral. The Episcopal Church embraces an understanding of ministry to flow from baptismal waters and so there was the Renewal of our Baptismal Vows.



**Michael Heffner with Irene Alves at the Presiding Bishop's Installation**

The service continued with song and then the Seating of the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop. “Since 1941, the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul has been the seat of the Presiding Bishop.” “On this historic day we extend to you the hospitality of this Cathedral Church for the exercise of your ministry, and invite you to take your seat in this chair which is symbolic of the office of Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church and Primate.” A moving service followed punctuated by beautiful music and a fiery sermon by Bishop Curry .



**Presiding  
Bishop  
Michael Curry  
with Irene  
Alves**

I can only echo the words Michael kept saying over and over “powerful, this is so powerful”. It was my joy and privilege to have represented Grace/La Gracia on that day and I am sure Michael felt the same.

**The Angelus**  
Quarterly Newsletter  
of Grace Church  
(914) 949-2874

[www.gracewhiteplains.org](http://www.gracewhiteplains.org)

Rector	Father Richard Kunz
Editor	Mary Baker
Contributor	Irene Alves, Donna Louis, Chris Schwartz, Mary Baker, Stephen Groth, Karen Odom, Helena Aldrich, Charlotte Roberson, Brinda Bradley, Maya Daughtry, Walter Simon, Nancy Inzinna, Barbara Biles, Dr. Barbra Mccune, Andrea Spencer
Distributor	Sandy Gustaferrero



**The Congregational Annual Meeting  
Will Be Held on January 31<sup>st</sup>  
After The 10 O'Clock Service**

**Please Save The Date**

**Gace Church Book Club Update  
Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month  
2015-2016 Book Selections**

<b>Dec 8:</b>	<b>NO BOOK CLUB MEETING</b>
<b>Jan 12:</b>	<b>All the Light We Cannot See</b> by Anthony Doerr
<b>Feb 9:</b>	<b>Americanah</b> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
<b>Mar 8:</b>	<b>Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End</b> by Atul Gawande
<b>Apr 12:</b>	<b>The Girl on the Train</b> by Paula Hawkins
<b>May 10:</b>	<b>Island Beneath the Sea</b> by Isabel Allende
<b>Jun 14:</b>	<b>God Help the Child</b> by Toni Morrison
<b>Summer:</b>	<b>After You</b> by Jojo Moyes + <b>The Book Thief</b> by Markus Zusak

## 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.

### Spencer Carden

What is your favorite subject in school and why?

I like math because I understand the material. It's easier for me than my other subjects and I like Ms. Kelly, my teacher.

Do you play a musical instrument? Who is your favorite musician or musical group?

I have been taking flute since 4<sup>th</sup> grade and I like it a lot. I don't have a favorite musician or musical group but my favorite music style is Dubstep. Dubstep is electronic dance music.

How does your family usually celebrate the Christmas holiday?

First, on Christmas Eve we go to church for the Christmas pageant. When we get home, we open one present which is always a Christmas ornament and we put it on our tree.

Later, our friends come over. We eat, play games, hang out, and watch the Santa tracker.

On Christmas day we open presents and then go to my cousin's house for a big meal. It's a lot of fun.



## Kaylee Owens



What is your favorite subject in school and why?

My favorite subject is Global History because social studies has always been easy for me. I like most of my classmates and I have a wonderful teacher. I like the challenge that comes along with being in an honors class and the in-depth discussions we have in class.

Do you play a musical instrument? Who is your favorite musician or musical group?

I do not currently play a musical instrument. I have an interest in the saxophone and hope to start playing soon. I have many favorite musicians and musical groups but my all-time favorite is the 90's R&B group Jodeci.

How does your family usually celebrate the Christmas holiday?

My family usually celebrates Christmas by attending the Grace Church Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. After the pageant we usually order pizza and watch the traditional Christmas movies until everyone is too tired to see how Frosty the Snowman ends. On Christmas morning, my older brother Cassius and I wake up at 4:00 and observe the packages under the tree. Then, we wake everyone else in the Owens household up and exchange gifts with one another.





## Maya Daughtry

What is your favorite subject in school?  
My favorite subject is History.

Do you play a musical instrument? Who is your favorite musician or musical group?  
I play the violin. I like various musical artists.

How does your family usually celebrate the Christmas holiday?  
The holidays are spent going to the houses of friends and family.

**Special Note: Maya is a very talented young lady who likes to write. She has written a Christmas story entitled “A Better Place” which we have published elsewhere in this edition of the Angelus. We would hope that she will consider submitting more of her creations in the future.**



## **‘Twas The Night Before Jesus Came By Dianne Frances Donenfeld**

‘Twas the night before Jesus came and all through  
the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in the house  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care  
In hopes that Jesus would not come  
there.

The children were dressing to crawl  
into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a  
head.  
And Mom in her rocker with baby on  
her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I  
took a nap.

When out of the east there arose such a  
clatter`.  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the  
matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore upon the shutters and threw up  
the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes  
should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was  
here  
With a light like the sun sending forth  
a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be THE  
DAY!

The light of His face made me cover  
my head  
It was Jesus! Returning just like He  
had said.

And though I possessed worldly  
wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of  
myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in  
His hand,  
Was written the name of every saved  
man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched  
for my name,  
When He said “It’s not here,” my head  
hung in shame.

The people whose names had been  
written with love  
He gathered to take to His Father  
above.  
With those who were ready He rose  
without a sound,  
While the rest were left standing  
around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late,  
I had waited too long and thus sealed  
my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they rose out of  
sight,  
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning  
is clear,  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There’s only one life and when comes  
the last call,  
We’ll find that the Bible was true after  
all!

## RENOVATED OPEN ARMS SHELTER RE-OPENS

A crowd of 100 gathered on October 8<sup>th</sup> to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the grand re-opening of the newly renovated Open Arms Men's Shelter. County Executive Rob Astorino was on hand to proclaim the day as the first-ever Westchester County Homeless Awareness Day. Mayor Tom Roach and Assemblyman David Buchwald aided in the ribbon-cutting, marking this as one of the most important milestones in the shelter's history.



The event heralded the purchase and renovation of the building at 86 E. Post Road in White Plains that had housed the shelter for a quarter of a century. The renovated and expanded facility will pave the way to a major change in the way homeless services are provided in Westchester County.

Culminating years of work and the fulfillment of many dreams, the renovation project has pumped \$3.4 million into the local economy. Renovations have expanded Open Arms from 12,600 square feet to 16,100 square feet through the addition of a third floor. Improvements include the installation of a fully equipped industrial kitchen and an elevator making the facility fully handicap accessible. With these changes and an upgrade of all mechanical systems,

Lifting Up Westchester is ready to meet the needs of our homeless neighbors in the 21st century.

The updated facility will have the capacity to shelter 52 individuals in 38 transitional housing units and 14 emergency housing units. It will target homeless, single men, including the chronically homeless and individuals struggling with alcohol and chemical dependency or mental illness.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled with the ‘new’ building,” explained Paul Anderson-Winchell, executive director of Lifting Up Westchester. “Equally gratifying is knowing that the leaders of this County are supportive and committed to our agency’s efforts to restore hope and dignity to our neighbors in need, one person at a time.”

**Left to right: Paul Anderson-Winchell, Executive Director of Lifting Up Westchester, Mayor Tom Roach, County Executive Rob Astorino, Samuel Roberts, Commissioner of the NY Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Helen Hamlyn, Board President and Charlie Bevier, Director of Shelters & Homeless Outreach Services were on hand for the ribbon cutting.**



In a significant departure from the shelter's original design which contained two large dormitories, the new building will have 12 single rooms, 5 double rooms, 1 triple room, 1 quintuple room, 1 octuple room and only one dormitory space. The goal is to gradually move clients from congregate living areas into more independent rooms in an effort to make their eventual transition to their own apartments more successful.

A modern, industrial kitchen will replace a small, poorly designed kitchen with an inadequate warming oven. Food Service staff will now be able to prepare meals onsite, reducing their reliance on expensive prepared food, and improving both the nutrition and quality of the food offered to our guests. . It will also enable the shelter to more effectively accept donations of bulk or perishable food from the Food Bank for Westchester and local community groups.

Primary funding for the project came from a \$5.7 million grant from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Homeless Housing & Assistance Program. Additional financing was received from the Leviticus Fund, a social lender, as well as a Federal Home Loan Bank of NY's Affordable Housing Program (AHP) grant, in the form of a \$133,000 loan and \$507,000 grant respectively. Lifting Up Westchester also received vital support from Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility (SHORE).



During the renovation, temporary housing for shelter residents was provided at a renovated storefront located at 234 Martin Luther King Blvd. Grace Episcopal Church provided overnight shelter for overflow clients Sunday to Friday and, on Saturdays, a loyal group of religious organizations took turns housing and feeding these residents.

**Michael Heffner with Helen Hamlyn, Lifting Up Westchester Board President and Rev. Rich Kunz, Board Chairman.**

This is the first of many changes that will be made to the homeless services provided by Lifting Up Westchester. Another will be a new focus on getting residents into homes of their own quickly. "The rationale is that finding housing is the greatest emotional burden faced by homeless individuals; once they are secure in a place of their own they are better able to deal with the issues of addiction, unemployment or mental illness that contributed to them being homeless in the first place," explained Charlie Bevier, director of Lifting Up Westchester's shelter and homeless outreach services.

Renovations are expected to result in significant annual savings due to reduced rent and operating costs... Lifting Up Westchester will be working with the County to reinvest these savings into other supportive and rehousing services or initiatives.

Open Arms Men's Shelter is the hub of all homeless services in White Plains and is the city's only transitional and emergency drop-in shelter for single, homeless men. It is also the only shelter in White Plains that provides outreach services to the chronically and street homeless.

---

### *Christmas Poinsettia*

*Friends of Music will be selling Poinsettia for \$15.00 each for delivery on Sunday December 13, 2015 and December 20, 2015. Proceeds from the sale will help in funding the music program.*

*If you wish to purchase these beautiful flowers please see the sign up sheet on the Parish Hall bulletin board or contact Barbara Biles.*

*Please place your order no later than December 6, 2015.*

*Thank you for your support.*

*Barbara Biles*







## Advent Wreath Activity Center Family Handout

Adults and children will learn the meaning of the Advent wreath and create one for home use.

### Instructions:

- # Gather the following items: a Styrofoam circle, four candles (three purple and one pink), evergreen branches, and ribbon for trim.
- # Write your name on the bottom of the Styrofoam circle.
- # Imagining that the circle is a compass, place one candle at north, one at south, one at east, and one at west.
- # Arrange the evergreens around the circle, attaching them to the Styrofoam. Decorate with ribbons.



### The Story of the Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths were originally part of folk traditions of Northern Europe. Wreaths of evergreens were decorated with candles to symbolize life and light during the dark months of winter. Legend has it that Saint Boniface first gave the wreath its Christian meaning in the eighth century, and we have been using these wreaths as part of our Advent preparation ever since.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God. The evergreens signify continuous life. Each of the four candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the prayer, penance, preparation, and good works we are called to do during Advent. The color purple signifies the "royalty" of Jesus Christ.

The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is the Sunday of rejoicing. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. We gradually add more light each Sunday until Christ, our Light, comes at Christmas.



## FAMILY PROJECT FOR ADVENT

Last year the Sunday School completed a very successful project of making Advent Wreaths. Perhaps many families saved their wreaths! If not, and you and others would enjoy this project at home this year, we are including the directions. We are also including suggestions for the use of these wreaths during family times in Advent.

**HAVE FUN!**



## Blessing the Advent Wreath Family Handout

Many families begin Advent with a short prayer service to bless the Advent wreath. On the first Sunday of Advent, you may wish to use the following prayer service to bless the wreath you have made.

To prepare, choose one person to lead the service and another to read aloud from Scripture. Open the Bible to Philippians 4:4-7. (Other good Advent passages are Isaiah 11:1-4, Isaiah 61:1-2, Mark 1:1-8, and James 5:7-10.)

Place the Advent wreath on a table and have your family gather around it. Lower the lights to create an appropriate atmosphere for the blessing. Light a single candle for the first week of Advent.

**Leader:** This week we begin the season of Advent, when the days grow short and darkness closes in. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

(Pause a few moments and then pray the Sign of the Cross.)

**Leader:** Lord God, bless this wreath and bless us as well. May this wreath remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Reader:** A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**All:** Amen.

(Pray the Lord's Prayer and continue with the prayer for the First Week of Advent.)





## Advent Wreath Prayers

### *Family Handout*

As you gather to light your Advent wreath, use the following prayers to focus your reflection. When praying the last sentence, trace a Sign of the Cross on your forehead, lips, and heart, as we do at Mass before the Gospel reading.

#### **First Week of Advent: purple**

Jesus, as we wait for your coming, help us not to be afraid and to trust in you. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of hope into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.  
Amen.

#### **Second Week of Advent: purple**

Jesus, John the Baptist told the people, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of service into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.  
Amen.

#### **Third Week of Advent: pink**

Jesus, we gather here as a family to dedicate our lives to you, as John the Baptist did. Help us to know, love, and serve you. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of joy into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.  
Amen.

#### **Fourth Week of Advent: purple**

Jesus, your mother, Mary, is "blessed among women." We are happy that she said "Yes!" to being your mother. As we light this candle, we remember that you bring the light of love into our lives. May your Word be always in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.  
Amen.



***The Deadline For The Spring Angelus  
Is February 8<sup>th</sup>. As Always, Thank You For  
Your Contributions!***

## ***A Better Place***

A Christmas Story by Maya Daughtry

It was Christmas Eve and everyone in the Town of Mapleton was at home eating Christmas Eve supper. Everyone but Oscar. He sat on a rock and peeked through a town person's window. He saw women placing delicious delicacies on the table. The roast beef and the chicken looked scrumptious. Oh, and the apple pie looked even better! He watched as friends and family gathered around the table in prayer.

Oh, how Oscar wished he had a family on Christmas Eve and a table filled with food. But no. Oscar was homeless. He had been wandering the streets of Mapleton for 20 years. His parents died in a fire. He was put in an orphanage. Nobody wanted to adopt him.

Years passed and Oscar was soon too old to be in the orphanage, so he was kicked out. He looked for a job, but nobody wanted to hire him. He didn't have any money. Oscar didn't know where to go or what to do, so he made the streets his home.

Oscar walked up to the chapel. That's where he went every day to pray. The church was warm too. He sat in a pew and closed his eyes and whispered . . .

*"Dear Lord,  
Why me? Why do I have to suffer? Why do you cause such pain for me? Please help me.  
That's all I ask from you. I do my part. I feed the birds the scraps of food I have. I wrap  
the stray cats in my coat on cold days. I never steal when I am in need. I come and pray to  
you daily. So all I ask from you is to help me and to put me in a place where I will be happy.  
A better place. In his name. Amen."*

Oscar left the church. He walked to the park and layed on the bench. His stomach made a loud gurgling sound, loud enough to be heard miles away. He was hungry. He hadn't eaten a solid meal in weeks or had a drink in two days. He closed his eyes and sleep came to him. He slept and slept and slept. "Wake up Oscar," said a soft, gentle voice.

His eyes opened slowly. In front of him was a glowing woman wearing a white sparkling dress. She had huge white wings. She smiled. "Take my hand," she said.

Oscar listened and took her hand. They rose higher and higher into the sky.

"Where are we going?" Oscar asked.

The woman turned to him. She smiled and said, "A better place."

## Grace Church Memorial Walk

The vestry's original plan was to fund the construction of the walk by providing parishioners with the opportunity to have stones engraved in memory of loved ones. However, due to the generosity of Luis Cappelli, the walk was constructed at no cost to Grace Church. As a sign of Grace Church's appreciation, the first stone was dedicated to the parents of Luis Cappelli.

The funds raised by memorializing the stones will now be used to install a sprinkler system, upgrading and/or replacing the plantings in the front of the church, installing a gate to the left of the chapel entrance and power washing the veteran's memorial and the stone benches in front of the church. The power washings were completed as well as the installation of the sprinkler system. Other improvements of the grounds around the church will be done if the Memorial Walk funding exceeds the cost of all the above items.

The cost of the memorial stones are at three levels to provide parishioners with wide pricing flexibility.

Full Stone: \$350.00

Half Stone: \$175.00 (full stone with an engraved line separating the two halves)

Shared Stone: \$75.00 per name (full stone with a heading "In Memory" and eight separate names).

The reservation forms will be available by yearend and the placement of the memorial stones will start in the spring of next year.

Contacts: Walter Simon and Sandy Gustafarro

## **S.A.G.E.**

### **SENIORS AT GRACE EPISCOPAL**

What words come to mind when you think about "aging"?

Here are a few of the responses from our recently formed Senior Fellowship and Discussion Group:

" changes...joy...how much more time?...loss...feel closer to God...loneliness....acceptance...\$\$\$ worries..."



Our group was formed in response to a recommendation which emerged from the Spring 2015 Renewal Works project. The purpose of the group is to provide fellowship and to address some of the unique spiritual and practical concerns of our older parishioners.

Based on the 12 members who have participated to date, I calculated that the average length of membership at Grace is 42 years! That's an incredibly rich history worth sharing and remembering.

Our discussions are lively, honest, and always include a few laughs.

At our October meeting, each member brought in a photo that has importance to him or her. Sharing the photos resulted in a wonderful discussion of family, special places, and near misses while fishing!

If you would like to know possible future discussion topics, speak to me or to one of the group members. Our usual meeting time is the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm in the Library. We are eager to include new folks who can add their own shared memories, collective wisdom, and hard-won life experiences to the group's discussions.

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday December 2, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
(We will meet at the Rectory for a holiday party.)

Dr Barbra McCune

---

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EDNA COGGINS**

The evening of Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, was a time for great rejoicing as Edna Coggins celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The gala was held at the Westchester Marriott and the ballroom was full of her many family members and friends, including many from Grace Church. The sparkles of her beautiful dress were matched by the sparkle of her smile as she welcomed her guests to an evening of dinner and dancing. A large band played throughout the evening, and it was impossible not to smile as many happy guests gathered on the dancefloor. Even Edna joined in the swaying group!

A life well lived was there for all to see on the large screen as it portrayed a continuous display of photos from throughout her life. Tributes from family and friends were made and even President Obama sent his best wishes.



Food and wine were plentiful as the guests ate their way through the evening, ending with the cutting of a beautiful birthday cake. This, of course, was followed by a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday to You, Dear Edna, Happy Birthday to You!”

---

## **Farewell to Victor Alleyne**

Victor Alleyne has been a member of Grace Church for about 38 years. During this time he served on the Vestry for 8 years, serve on the board of Downtown Music for several years and Caribbean Ministries, and an Usher for several years of which he was the Team Captain for team 3 Ushers who serve every 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sunday of the month.

Victor is always willing to assist whenever the duty calls, he is always the first responder, and “What time should I be there?” Victor coined customer service, he’s always asking How was the boat-ride how was the food did you enjoy it what do you suggest we do next time? When Victor is away in Atlanta he always sends an email asking how was church today? We will surely miss you Victor! You are one of a kind. I know you have family in this are and will be visiting your Grace Church family whenever you are in the area.

Today is Victor’s last day as an Usher here at Grace as he and his wife Barbara will be departing to Atlanta on November 20<sup>th</sup>. On the behalf of all the Ushers we want to extend our gratitude for your excellent service and we wish you and Barbara a safe Journey and much deserved happiness.



Here are some of the Kind remarks your teamsters have said about you:

*As well as the Hawks are playing; none of us are surprised that you'd pick Atlanta as your retirement destination... I'll always have the memories of sharing highlights with you of the Knicks when they were great, Victor. They'll be back (and we hope that you and Barbara will too!).* **Michael**

*Selfless, humble, reliable, faithful Christian who served his God, his church, his community, his family, friends & neighbors! He relocated to Greenburg with Texaco as a Graphics professional & generously shared that talent with Grace church on the publication of the Angelus, was a member of St. Andrews, served as a team leader--usher and found the time to be an entrepreneur with a video store named Flick and after selling that successful business he later opened a Caribbean bistro much to the delight of one's palate!!!! Victor, you truly God's quiet shining light, - let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!!!!!! Atlanta will be a brighter place with u & Barbara & behind that light is your loving wife Barbara. May God Bless & keep u both!!!!*  
**Maria**

*We'll miss his smiling face to greet us at the door and his willingness to lend a hand whenever we needed it. Good luck in Atlanta, Victor and don't be a stranger!*

*-Hillary*

*Dear Victor,*

*Thank you for always willing to lend a helping hand.*

*Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness to others.*

*Thank you for being a good example of good work habits and for getting the job done.*

*Thank you for sharing and caring.*

*We will miss you dearly.*

*Good luck in Atlanta and continue to do your very best for you and for others.*

*Love,*

*Marie Barrow*

---

### **YOU CAN LIGHT A CANDLE FOR JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD**

Imagine that last March your daughter, who is a student, helped organize a student march to protest a law that limits academic freedom. As a result, she was arrested, beaten, put in solitary confinement, and charged with a criminal offense for which she could receive nine years in prison.

In another scenario, imagine that you and your young wife are parents of an eleven-year old boy. Then you learn that she is now expecting a baby. While she is at work, she suddenly begins having severe pain. She goes into labor, and becomes unconscious. While unconscious her baby is born dead. Police are called to the scene, handcuff her and arrest her, accusing her of murder. Now she has been sentenced to prison for thirty years for murder.

Another – imagine you are a lawyer whose passion is representing peaceful activists who speak out about attacks by the government on human rights. Finally, you yourself are arrested because you have harmed the government's reputation and you have been sentenced to ten years in prison.

As terrible as these stories sound, they are all actually true right now. The student, Phyo Phyo Aung, is imprisoned right now in Myanmar (Burma). The wife, Teodora Del Carmen Vasquez is in jail in El Salvador, where women who miscarry or suffer a still birth are routinely suspected of having had an illegal abortion and accused of murder. The lawyer, Waleed Abu A l-Khair, presently is in jail in Saudi Arabia, which has led a ruthless crackdown on all critics and have handed down long prison sentences to those who dare to call for greater freedom.

Some who read of these people might throw up their hands in despair, saying nothing can be done by anyone here. Some might choose to put their heads in the sand and decide to “only think happy thoughts,” because this is all too depressing. But to those who read such true stories and become morally incensed, let me tell you that there is something each one of us can do. It is not impossible



to change these situations. People such as those in these cases can be set free. These governments often can be pressured to intervene if the publicity becomes too great. What governments most dread is adverse and negative publicity.

Effecting such interventions is the sole purpose of Amnesty, International. Amnesty's mission is focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of human rights and protecting those who have been imprisoned because their human rights have been denied. When thousands of letters arrive in Myanmar about Phyoe Phyoe Aung, they just might let her go, because Myanmar's government is hungry for foreign approval and investment. President Sein is eager to demonstrate that his country is on the road to political reform.

Every year in December around the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948, Amnesty International holds Writeathons all over the world. This year those who participate will write letters on behalf of these three prisoners and nine others. Can you imagine the impact those thousands of letters from all over the world might have on those twelve people! Every year Amnesty reports many success stories, all because people write letters. It is the power of the mighty pen!!

This year local Amnesty Group 41 will once again host a Writeathon. It is on Sat., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 at the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, 7 Saxon Woods Road in White Plains. Amnesty's symbol is a lighted candle surrounded by barbed wire. Won't you choose to light a candle yourself to help an imprisoned prisoner of conscience be freed from chains of bondage.

For more information, you can contact Mary Baker (428-2004) or Stephen Groth.

---

**BE A SUPERHERO -----FIGHT THE BAD GUYS!**

**YOUR MIGHTY WEAPON IS A PEN**

Come to the Amnesty Writeathon on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 at the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, 7 Saxon Woods Road in White Plains. All information and materials are available for you there and all postage is paid. Refreshments are available and there are door prizes. All you have to do is show up prepared to write a letter!



## 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 - *Macaroni & Cheese Boxes – 114 BOXES COLLECTED!*
- NOVEMBER - *Canned Vegetables – in progress at time of printing*
- DECEMBER - *Canned Soup*
- JANUARY - *Granola Bars & Fruit Snacks for After School Mentoring Program*
- FEBRUARY - *Tunafish & Canned Chicken*

### ***BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL:***

*PreK – Grade 1: All About Me*



***Sunday, Sept. 20: BOOKBAG***



***BLESSING***



***Saturday, Nov. 7: GRACE YOUTH ATTEND DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY WORKSHOP***



On Saturday, November 7th, Sam Brown and Brianna Parkinson, two of our J2A youth, attended the Diocesan Youth Ministry training with Youth Ministry Leaders, Lauren and Marissa. The youth participated in workshops and shared their ideas about what they would like to see happen with youth ministry events within the Diocese. This begins the rejuvenation of youth ministries within the Diocese in which Grace Church has had a prominent

role for over 30 years. We have the support of the Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan, who was also in attendance. Please keep these youth and all others involved in this mission in your prayers.

Lauren, Sam, Bishop Shin, Brianna, Marissa

***Sunday, Nov. 8: VETERAN'S TRIBUTE***



"Thank You Veterans for keeping us safe."

***Sunday, Nov. 8: RITE 13 & J2A ANNUAL BOWLING OUTING***



***Saturday, Dec. 12: Santa's Workshop, 3pm – 8pm***

J2A will be hosting the younger members with crafts, games, movies and food so that their parents can get a little Christmas shopping done!

***J2A PARLOR MAKE-OVER:***

Thanks to Walter and Sylvia Simon who facilitated a friend's gifting 2 new-to-us sofas for the J2A meeting space. We love them so far, and are now looking for a few chairs to complement them. We also hope to update some of the artwork that adorns our walls with some that speaks to our group just a bit more.

***SAVE THE DATE!***

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

---

## **239<sup>th</sup> Convention - The Episcopal Diocese of New York**

Irene Alves

The 239<sup>th</sup> Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of New York was held on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at The Cathedral of St. John The Divine in New York City. The motto was "Equipping the Saints " ... for works of service...



Every year the Bishops, Clergy and elected Lay Delegates of the Diocese gather to pray, listen, discuss, and vote on the business of the Diocese. Father Kunz led the delegation from Grace/La Gracia which included

Walter Simon, Lauren Reid and Irene Alves.

The Diocesan Bishop, the Assistant Bishop the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Secretary of Convention and Treasurer of the Diocesan sit on the dais during Convention. ‘An open Bible , with a lighted candle nearby, is a reminder that our deliberations take place in the context of a sacred tradition. Just as was done so long ago in Jerusalem, so now we try to discern our call by the light of God’s inspired Word. The Bible is opened to the Gospel of John.’ The Chaplain for the Convention is available throughout the day for prayer and counsel.

#### Schedule of Convention:

8:00 am

- Registration begins

9:00 am Morning Session

- Convention Called to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Establishment of quorum
- Report – Credentials Committee
- Instructions for the day
- Electronic balloting : instructions, voting and report
- Bishop’s Address
- Referral of resolutions
- Awards
- Holy Eucharist and Healing Stations
- Workshops

1:00 pm Break for Lunch

2:00 pm Afternoon session

- Convention resumes
- Electronic balloting, instructions and report
- Reports
- Vote on Resolutions
- Bishop’s Appointments
- Electronic balloting, instructions and report on 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot
- Commissioning and Dismissal





3:30 pm Convention Adjourns

(Needless to say the convention ran significantly overtime)

All of the Resolutions passed. They were:

- Resolution Against Caste-and Descent- Based Discrimination (India Network)
- Task Force Recommendations: Diocesan Community Development Investment Program and Applying Ethical Standards in the Management of Church Investment Assets
- Response to Systemic Racial Injustice
- Combating Mass Incarceration
- Conversion to Green, Renewable Energy
- Sharing the Proceeds of Sales and Leases of Air Rights

There were lively discussions on the resolutions.

The 2016 Narrative Budget :

An abridged version was submitted to the Convention of the Diocese. The full 24 page version is available on the Diocesan website and includes detailed descriptions of all income sources, all offices, all grants and all programs in the Diocese, and also includes a detailed account of the budget process.

The Convention for the year 2016 will be two days long and held at the Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown, NY.

---



*A Farewell Tribute to Tim Lewis*

## *Faces of Grace*



---

## *A Gift From the Taurino Juarez Family*



## *Festival of Lessons and Carols*



Sunday, December 13, 2015  
4:00 pm

Grace Episcopal Church  
33 Church Street  
White Plains, NY

### **The Choirs and Professional Soloists of Grace Church**

Thomas Jamerson, Choral Director

Peter Roberts, Organist

Admission to *Festival of Lessons and Carols* is free.  
Donations towards the Music Programs of Grace Church will be most appreciated.

Please call the Church Office at  
914-949-2874 for more information.

Located at Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, N.Y.



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

33 Church Street  
White Plains, NY 10601

[www.gracewhiteplains.org](http://www.gracewhiteplains.org)

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
White Plains NY  
Permit No. 41