

## Celebrating 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



# The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

## The Rector's Letter

A new church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent on November 27. A new calendar year begins on January 1. In some years, these passages represent an unfolding of what has already been underway. Other years bring us face to face with something new and unknown. This coming year is clearly the latter case.

On a national and political level, both those who voted for and against Trump agree that his election will bring change. There is obvious disagreement about the nature and extent of that change, but uncertainty and disruption are now woven into our future. We will somehow need to deal with the vast differences in perception and goals that have led many to say that we live in two different Americas.



On the level of our parish there will also be change, but with a much more positive accent. Our vestry has made a commitment, in a cooperative agreement with the diocese, to invest some of our endowment in growth. We have no interest in settling into

a new round of unsustainable spending, but are cognizant that we will not grow if we do not invest in growth.

One step we are taking is to hire a second full time priest. Right now you have a Rector and a part time priest who serves as supply for the La Gracia part of our congregation. The diocese is helping us fund a new full time position. Father Adolfo Moronta will be working with me to serve all of our congregation. Besides being the primary clergy person for La Gracia, he will share in preaching, adult education, hospital and other pastoral visitation, and noon services. We are also looking to be able to experiment with a Saturday or Sunday evening service that will be especially geared for younger people, the development of some small groups, the expansion of our social media, and more time spent out of the office and in the community. I am very much looking forward to having a close colleague with whom to do ministry.

Change will be taking place in Lifting up Westchester. Paul Anderson-Winchell, who has done so much to help that organization stabilize and grow, is retiring. We are already involved in a search process for a new Executive Director.

There will also be opportunities for new ministry in our community. We actually have two groups working on outreach. The Fellowship for Justice, Peace and Freedom and the Care for the Creation has brought issues like world hunger, political prisoners, and Palestinian rights before the congregation. This is a group very open to new members and concerns, and can be a support for all of you who are involved as activist trying to make the world a better place. The Outreach and Advocacy Committee of the vestry is exploring the possibility of bringing together the resources of our church in order to create a new ministry. Decades ago we began Grace Church Community Center. Is it time to actively respond to the new problems and opportunities that are before us today?

Change is seldom easy or smooth, but it is an inevitable part of life and can bring fresh vitality. The Bible tells us that “God’s mercies are new every morning”. I look forward to the new mercies God will show us as we face new opportunities.

**The Angelus**

Quarterly Newsletter  
of Grace Church  
(914) 949-2874

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

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## **A LETTER TO YOU FROM GOD**

My child,

I planned for you before the creation of the world, before time itself began. I chose you to be Mine. I delight over you. I want you to know My love, to be quieted by it, to be rooted and grounded in it, so that you can truly experience the height, depth, width, and breadth of how I feel toward you. I have good things planned for us to do together. I will make them happen, and I will be with you every step of the way.

Your Loving Father

(See Ephesians 1:4; Zephaniah 3:17; Ephesians 3:16-19; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 13:5.)

### ***Important Dates***

***November 27 – First Sunday in Advent***

***December 10, 4:00 PM – Informal Carol singing in front of the church***

***December 11, 12:00 PM – Celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe***

***5:00 PM – Lessons and Carols***

***December 14, 12:30 PM – SAGE party at the Rectory***

***December 24***

***4:00 PM – Children's Service and Pageant***

***7:00 PM – Spanish Eucharist***

***10:00 PM – Candlelight Service***

***December 25, 9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist***

***December 31 – Church open in the evening for prayer until 12:30AM***

***January 1, 9:00 AM – Holy Eucharist***

## ***A Stewardship Message for the Angelus***

During the past several weeks some parishioners have attended one of the stewardship campaign's Cottage Meeting where we reflected on how we respond to God's grace and generosity. Our discussions were based on **Mark 10:17-31, "The Rich and the Kingdom of God."**

This scripture focuses on how one man asked Jesus "what must he do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus suggested that he sell everything he had, give to the poor and follow him. Jesus' response left the man sad, because the man did not understand that his wealth and following the commandments did not necessarily mean he would enter the Kingdom of God. According to The Very Rev. Walter B.A. Brownridge, Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrews, Hawaii, the man did not realize that his wealth was temporal and that all he owned came from God. His focus was on his wealth and accomplishments but he was unable to recognize the need to share his gifts and show his gratitude for all that he owned.

As Christians, it is important for us to acknowledge that all we have, our life, freedom, gifts, talents, treasures, etc., comes from a gracious and generous God. It is also important for us to recognize God's generosity in our personal lives and at Grace Church/Iglesia La Gracia. As good stewards, we can respond to God's grace and generosity with gratitude and thanksgiving. Becoming fully integrated into the life and work of Grace Church/Iglesia La Gracia by offering our time, talents and treasures is a way for us to show our gratitude and thanksgiving to a generous God.

The Very Rev. Brownridge says our response to God's grace and generosity can be accomplished by living our lives in the "**Key of G**", which is to live each day in gratitude for all God has provided for us. At this season of Stewardship and Thanksgiving, let us remember to be good stewards and to live our lives in the "**Key of G.**"

If you have not already done so, please submit your 2017 commitment sheet. Don't forget to identify and sign up for a new volunteer opportunity. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

*Faithfully Your*  
*The Stewardship Committee*

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### TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND

On Saturday, Nov 12, 38 members and friends of the parish spent a wonderful day in fellowship as we travelled to Sight & Sounds Theater to see Samson. Everyone was impressed by the amazing special effects in the show and how they made the story of Samson come alive.



We had a beautiful day, with plenty of sunshine, and were able to not only sleep during our ride there, but enjoy peaceful views of the farms that were along the highways in Lancaster. We enjoyed a delicious feast at Good & Plenty restaurant after the show and were able to browse the restaurant's bakery and gift shops when we were done eating. During the ride home, we played a Samson trivia game and several people won prizes. Our driver, Kaz, ensured that we got to and from our destination safely, and we were back in White Plains (after some traffic in Fort Lee!) just before 8 p.m.

Since we all had such a good time, and enjoyed the show, we are definitely looking forward to another trip next year to see Jonah, which will begin showing in the spring.

Hillary Fleming

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## LIFTING UP WESTCHESTER HOLIDAY GIFT CARD DRIVE

As we all know, this is the season of giving. As we prepare both physically and emotionally for this holiday season, we remind ourselves in the hustle and bustle of preparation that there are our brothers and sisters who are perhaps not as fortunate as we to provide those extra special somethings for their families.

In the spirit of our shared Christian faith, we have the opportunity to provide families with gift of having a memorable Christmas meal. A total of 180 families served by *Lifting Up Westchester* will receive a grocery bag of non-perishable items. What's missing? The ability to provide families with fresh vegetables, fruit, and of course, a special dessert for the holiday. We at Grace Church have traditionally given of our riches to share with our brothers and sisters. How can you help? Provide a gift card in the amount of \$25 for each bag. Gift cards from Stop & Shop, Shop-Rite, Target or Walmart would be much appreciated. If you cannot get to one of these stores to do so, a cash donation or a check made to "Lifting Up Westchester" serves the same purpose.

The collection will continue through Sunday, December 18, 2016, in the Parish Hall after the 10 AM mass. Attend 8:00 AM or 12:30PM? Then please leave your donation in the collection basket.

If you have any questions, please speak with Linda Gallo.

Yours in spirit,

Linda Gallo

## Mission Fair – Father Kunz

On October 22 the Global Mission Commission held a Mission Fair at St. James' on Madison Avenue. Like Grace/La Gracia, many parishes in the Diocese of New York have established some kind of international outreach. Many others would like to, but do not know how to start. This conference was a chance to reflect both theologically and practically on the nature and goal of international connections for mission.

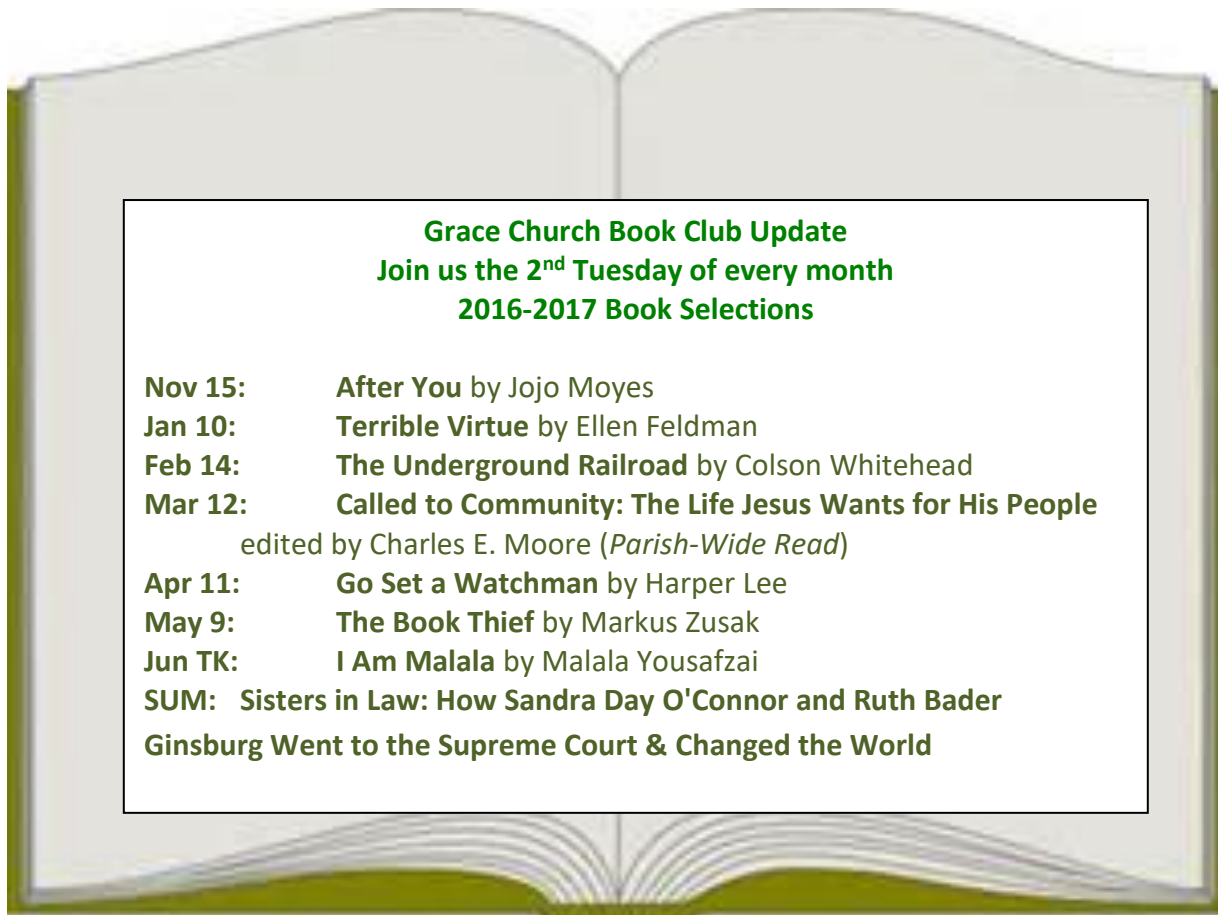
Our keynote speaker was Father Jesse Zink, who wrote a book entitled "Backpacking through the Anglican Communion". He offered a reflection on the way in which simply being the church moves us toward mission.

There were a variety of workshops offered. Barbra and I led one called "How to Get Invited Back". There is a lot of thinking about ways in which our reaching out especially in third world countries can become "toxic charity". Having hosted many different mission groups while we were in Honduras, we were able to share and discuss what we had learned from that experience.

During the day Bishop Glasspool announced several grants based on Sustainable Development Goals. One went to help fund the creation of a mill in Haiti that would support a church and school there. Another added a wing to a school in India that can accommodate girls with physical disabilities. A final one went to an organization in El Salvador that works for human rights. There will be grants given out each year, and we might consider applying for one in the future to build on our existing connections in the Caribbean.

We are already meeting to plan next year's mission fair, and look forward to building on what we have learned from the event this past October.

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### **El puente (Cuento Corto)**

Un par de hermanos vivían juntos y en armonía durante muchos años. Ellos tenían granjas separadas pero vecinas. Un día tuvieron un conflicto serio, era el problemas más grave después de 40 años de cultivar hombro a hombro, compartir maquinaria e intercambiar cosechas y bienes en forma continua.

Comenzó con un pequeño malentendido y fue creciendo hasta que explotó en un intercambio de palabras amargas, seguido de semanas de silencio.



Una mañana alguien llamó a la puerta del hermano mayor. Al abrir la puerta encontró a un hombre que le dijo:

—Estoy buscando trabajo por algunos días. Quizás usted requiera algunas pequeñas reparaciones aquí en su granja, y yo pueda ser de ayuda en eso.

—Sí— dijo el hermano mayor—tengo un trabajo para usted. Mire al otro lado del arroyo vive mi vecino, bueno, en realidad es mi hermano menor. La semana pasada había una hermosa pradera que nos unía, pero él, desvió el cauce del arroyo para que quedara entre nosotros. Él pudo hacerme esto para enfurecerme—agregó seriamente enojado—pero yo le voy a hacer una mejor. ¿Ve usted aquella pila de maderos junto al granero? —le preguntó al carpintero—quiero que construya una cerca de dos metros de alto, no quiero verlo nunca más.

El carpintero le dijo—Creo que comprendo la situación.

El hermano mayor le ayudó al carpintero a recoger todos los materiales necesarios, y dejó la granja toda la tarde para ir al pueblo por provisiones.

Cerca del ocaso, cuando el granjero regresó, el carpintero había terminado el trabajo. Al mirar el granjero quedó con los ojos completamente abiertos y su quijada cayó del asombro.

No había ninguna cerca. En su lugar, el carpintero había construido un hermoso puente que unía las dos granjas a través del arroyo. Era una fina pieza de arte, con todo y pasamanos.

En ese momento, su vecino, su hermano menor, vino desde su granja y abrazando a su hermano mayor le dijo:

—Eres un gran tipo, mira que construir este hermoso puente, después de todo lo que te he dicho y hecho.

Estaban en su reconciliación los dos hermanos, cuando vieron que el carpintero recogía sus herramientas.

—No..., espera. Quédate con nosotros un par de días más, tengo varios proyectos para ti—Le dijo el hermano mayor al carpintero.

—Me gustaría —respondió el carpintero—pero tengo muchos puentes más por construir.

**En esta Navidad retornemos al mensaje de Maria e Isabel en el Magnificat: Restauración y sanidad.**

Fuente: <http://corrupcionycrimen.blogspot.com/>

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YOU ARE A WORK OF HEART



CREATED BY GOD

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**WE ARE PROUD OF LISA DALEY**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Lisa Daley was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame of Manhattan College. She attended Manhattan College on an athletic scholarship many years ago and obtained her Bachelor of Arts there in 1993.



She won a silver medal in the 400m hurdles in the women's 45-49 age group recently in Perth, Australia. She advanced to the finals of the 400m. She won Silver in that event!

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The hustle and bustle of the holidays is around the corner. At Lifting Up Westchester, our staff and volunteers are already busy planning activities to spread holiday cheer and lift the spirits of Westchester's men, women and children in need. We've rolled all of our Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's activities into one program called Holiday Lift with lots of opportunities for parishioners and others in the community to get involved.

Holiday Lift activities include distributing warm coats and winter clothing, providing holiday meals and holiday food bags, and wrapping and delivering hundreds of holiday gifts. It will take an army of volunteers to get it done.

Paul Anderson-Winchell, Executive Director said, "It's always heart-warming and humbling to see the community come together during the holiday season to make sure that everyone has something to eat, receives a small gift or has warm gloves for the cold winter ahead. This is when we see the best of humankind."

A winter clothing giveaway at Grace's Kitchen on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> launched Holiday Lift activities. Students from the White Plains High School Key Club were on hand to sort and distribute coats, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters and other donated clothing.



During the holiday season, LUW will fill and distribute 500 holiday food bags to the clients in our various programs so that they can prepare festive meals in the comfort of their own homes. Grace Church parishioners are being asked to help by donating \$25 gift cards to local grocery stores. Gift cards will be inserted into the holiday food bags distributed to vegetarians or families who prefer to eat something other than turkey or ham for their holiday meals.

On Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, dozens of volunteers will also help serve or deliver another 2,000 holiday meals. If you want to do more than donate grocery cards, here are some ways you can help fill those plates:

- Donate the free turkeys that many grocery stores give away at Thanksgiving or Christmas.
- Organize a food drive and involve your neighborhood, school or community group. Food needed most: (no jars please)

Turkeys	Cranberry Sauce (jellied)	Canned Fruit
Hams	Dessert Mixes	Coffee or Tea
Instant Mashed Potatoes	Rice	Sugar or Sugar Substitute
Stuffing Mix	Condensed Milk	Peanut Butter & Jam
Gravy (canned or mix)	Pasta & Sauce	Beans (all kinds)

- Donate cash online at [www.liftingupwestchester.org](http://www.liftingupwestchester.org) to help fill any last minute needs.

Dessert lovers and holiday bakers have a few more ways to help ensure that our soup kitchen guests and other clients have an opportunity to enjoy the tastes of the season.



We're having a Pie Day on Saturday, November 19th. Nancy Inzinna, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager said, "We never seem to get enough donations of holiday desserts, especially pies. The kids in our youth programs love pie, so we're trying to make it easy for people to bring in pie donations." On Pie Day, home baked or store bought pies can be dropped off at the Lifting Up Westchester head office at 35 Orchard St., White Plains from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Donations of brownie and cake mixes are also welcome...don't forget to include icing.



Holiday bakers are encouraged to donate home baked Christmas cookies. "Our soup kitchen guests seldom get a taste of home-baking and nothing says Christmas like a plate of Christmas cookies," said Inzinna. She added that getting children involved in baking and donating holiday treats is a great way to introduce them to the spirit of giving.

Lifting Up Westchester will also be giving away hundreds of Christmas gifts to our clients- gloves, hats and scarves for the residents of Open Arms & Samaritan House, and sports balls, board games and multicultural dolls for the children in our Brighter Futures Youth Programs. \$25 gift cards to Target, Walmart, McDonald's, Wendy's or Dunkin Donuts will be distributed to teens- an age group that is often forgotten by Christmas gift donors.

Drop off information for all Holiday Lift activities is below. For more information please contact Nancy Inzinna at [ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org](mailto:ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org) or call (914) 949-3098 ext. 9735.

**HOLIDAY LIFT DROP-OFF INFORMATION**

<b>Holiday Lift Activity</b>	<b>Drop Off Date</b>	<b>Drop Off Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Holiday Food Donations	For Thanksgiving- before Tuesday, Nov. 8 For Christmas- before Tuesday, Dec. 6	9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	LUW Head Office 35 Orchard St., White Plains
Pie Day	Saturday Nov. 19	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	LUW Head Office 35 Orchard St., White Plains
Holiday Baking	Before Tuesday, Dec. 6	9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	LUW Head Office 35 Orchard St., White Plains
Christmas Gifts	Nov. 7- Dec. 5	9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	LUW Head Office 35 Orchard St., White Plains

## ***Pastoral Care Article for the Angelus***

Grace Church members who are unable to attend Sunday Services and have requested to receive communion at home, in a skilled nursing facility or hospital is visited once a month by a Lay Eucharistic Visitor.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the Diocese of New York to administer consecrated elements to the ill and infirmed. An abbreviated service based on Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer is used as the foundation for the service. The Collect of the Day, Gospel, summary of the sermon of the day, Confession of Sin and Lord's Prayer, are covered before the distribution of communion. Taking communion to those who are ill or infirmed is our way of maintaining a connection between Grace Church and those absent parishioners. I think the closing prayer from this service, sums up that connection:

*"..... We give you thanks for feeding **N. our brother/sister** with the Sacrament of the precious Body and Blood, which is the sign and instrument of our common life, and also for enriching our parish family by **his/her** sharing with us the food of our pilgrimage, the foretaste of that heavenly banquet of which we shall partake with all of your saints, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**"*

Our Pastoral Care Committee (Lay Eucharistic Visitors) currently have 15 members including Fr. Kunz. Committee members visits Grace Church members in their homes, hospital or skilled nursing facilities. They also serve at the healing service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. This is a very rewarding ministry for both the visitor and those being visited. Those being visited are grateful for the time that is spent receiving communion and the sharing of news and activities at Grace. Providing Pastoral Care to our members is another way of being a good steward and sharing God's gifts with others. If you are concerned about a fellow parishioner who you miss from service, please reach out to that person, contact the church office or Fr. Kunz, so that we can touch base with that person.

*Faithfully Yours,*

*Sandy Gadsden,  
Pastoral Care Committee Lay Contact*

## ACOLYTE FESTIVAL

We are all very proud of the young people of our congregation who regularly serve as acolytes at our church services throughout the year.



On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, eleven of these young people from Grace Church attended the Acolyte Festival that was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. They were accompanied by their leader, Lauren Reid. Lauren also was one of the adult presenters at the Festival. She led a workshop entitled “Holy Smoke” about the use of incense during church services.

The eleven who participated were: Briana and Gabrielle Parkinson, Eric and Aaron Woodberry, Jesenia and Alexis Arellano, Henry Chalco, Fatima Sofia Orasco, Lila Arroyo, Marisol Ortega and Andrea Spencer.

Marisol Ortega was chosen to read the Prayers of the People, which she did in both English and Spanish.

Accompanying the children were two parents, Margaret Broomfield Parkinson and Tiffany Woodberry.



Two of the young people who attended the Festival gave their reactions to the events of the day.

**ERIC WOODBERRY -- Grade 5**

“The Acolyte Festival was special and meaningful because I learned a lot of different things. In Ms. Lauren’s workshop, called Holy Smoke, I learned about why incense is used during the church service. I also had a chance to swing the thurible. During the workshop, Here Comes a Parade, I learned about the seasons of the church. I also got to blow a Shofar, which is a type of horn that people used many years ago during church services. I also learned the meaning of the cross and torches that are used in a procession. The priest that ran the workshop explained that when in a procession, the cross and torches should form a triangle to represent the trinity. I really enjoyed the festival, and I look forward to the next one.”



## AARON WOODBERRY – Grade 3

“The acolyte festival was special because I learned a lot of different things about the church. In Ms. Lauren’s workshop, called Holy Smoke, I learned about when incense is used during the church service. It was cool to see the incense in church on Sunday! In the other workshop, Here Comes a Parade,” the priest talked about the different seasons of the church. She had a lot of things that are used during a procession like crosses, torches, stars, and ribbons. I had a lot of fun.”

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## Restauración y sanidad nuestra propuesta de Navidad

Padre Luis Barrios



### I-Introducción:

Mis querid@s herman@s, en este Adviento 2017 hemos encendido cuatro velas. La primera se llama "Vela de la Esperanza". Simboliza la fe en Dios manteniendo sus promesas a la humanidad. La segunda se llama "Vela de Preparación", recordándoles a l@s Cristian@s que deben "prepararse" para recibir a Dios. La tercer es la "Vela de la Alegría". Recuerda a los ángeles cantando alegremente sobre el nacimiento de Cristo. Y la cuarta vela, la "Vela del Amor", les recuerda a l@s Cristian@s que Dios l@ ama lo suficiente como para enviar a su único Hijo a la Tierra. En la misa del 24 de diciembre encenderemos la vela blanca, o Ciro Pascual, esta es la "Vela de Cristo".

Durante estos últimos domingos, hemos venido diciendo que el Adviento, es cuando entendemos mejor lo que significa esperar la venida de Cristo. Esperamos el arribo de la Navidad, la llegada del Cristo niño. Nuestra atención, tiempo, dinero y energía se centran en la preparación de nuestras festividades familiares y de la iglesia. Este es nuestro punto de enfoque primordial. Sin embargo, no debemos olvidarnos que en la esperanza cristiana también existe la espera de la segunda venida de Cristo.

El día de hoy sería muy bueno reflexionar sobre la paz en el contexto de la justicia y la dignidad. Creo que este es el mensaje central del evangelio cuando María proclama el magnificat (**San**

**Lucas 1: 46-55).** La Navidad es una época en que las crisis familiares que hemos vivido, los enojos, las peleas y los distanciamientos de alguna manera se vuelven dolorosamente evidente. Es un momento en que necesitamos desesperadamente **restauración y sanidad** en esas relaciones humanas más básicas.

Santa María esperaba una visión de la restauración de toda la familia humana, lo cual es también un tiempo para abrazar **la restauración y sanidad** que Dios ha prometido a toda la familia humana y esto incluyendo a la iglesia como familia, una especie propuesta de liberación que incluye la reconciliación. **Recuerda, mas importante que olvidar es recordar sin que te haga daño.**

**II-El mensaje en el Magnificat: Paz en el contexto de la justicia y dignidad.**

*El hace proezas con su brazo; \* dispersa a los soberbios de corazón. Derriba del trono a los poderosos, \* y enaltece a los humildes. A los hambrientos los colma de bienes, \* y a los ricos despide vacíos.*

Es un modelo de paz que frena la injusticia y le devuelve a la gente la capacidad de decidir;

Es un modelo que a veces cambia el orden: en vez de decir una paz que deje como resultado la justicia, podríamos decir, una justicia que deje como resultado la paz;

Es un modelo de paz que tiene como propósito el acercar nuestras lejanísimas posturas y encontrar un espacio de compromiso que permita dejar, sin ninguna duda, las injusticias.

Es posible acercarnos y reconciliarnos con quienes nos han hecho daño.

**A-El perdón: Dios hace proezas con sus brazos**

¿Te han hecho algo malo alguna vez?... ¿Te han lastimado o te han dicho alguna cosa desagradable?... ¿Deberías tratar tú de la misma manera a quien te hizo eso?... Muchas personas se vengan de quienes los tratan mal. Pero Jesús enseñó que debemos perdonar (Mateo 6:12).

Tod@s hemos hecho algo indebido, ofendido y pecado contra alguien en algún punto de nuestra vida. ¿Cómo debemos responder cuando ocurren tales ofensas? De acuerdo con la Biblia, debemos perdonar. Efesios 4:32 dice; "Antes sed benign@s un@s con otr@s, misericordios@s, perdonándoos un@s a otr@s, como Dios también os perdonó a vosotr@s en Cristo." Igualmente Colosenses 3:13 declara, "...soportándoos un@s a otr@s, y perdonándoos un@s a otr@s si algun@o tuviere queja contra otr@. De la manera que Cristo os perdonó, así también hacedlo vosotr@s." La clave en ambos pasajes de la Escritura es que debemos perdonar a otr@s, como Dios nos perdonó a nosotr@s. ¿Por qué perdonamos? ¡Porque nosotr@s hemos sido perdonados!

El perdón sería sencillo si sólo tuviéramos que concederlo a aquell@s que lo piden con pena y arrepentimiento. La Biblia nos dice que debemos perdonar a aquell@s que pecan contra nosotr@s, sin condiciones. El negar el sincero perdón a una persona, demuestra:

**resentimiento, o rencor** es una desazón, desabrimiento o queja que queda de un dicho o acción ofensiva que puede perdurar largo tiempo y reaparecer cuando se recuerda dicha ofensa.

**amargura**, lo cual es un

disgusto o tristeza, especialmente por no haber podido satisfacer una necesidad o un deseo:

**venganza**, lo cual es una

respuesta a una ofensa o daño recibido con otra ofensa o daño dirigido a la persona que lo ha h  
echo (desquite)

**enojo**, un

sentimiento que una persona experimenta cuando se siente contrariada o perjudicada por otra o por una cosa, como ante una falta de respeto, una desobediencia o un error.

Ninguno de estos deben ser las características de una persona cristiana. El perdonar me ayuda a superar estos sentimientos. En el Padre Nuestro, le pedimos a Dios que “perdone nuestros pecados, así como nosotr@s perdonamos a quienes nos ofenden.” (Mateo 6:12). Jesús dijo en Mateo 6:14-15, “Porque si perdonáis a las personas sus ofensas, os perdonará también a vosotr@s vuestro Padre celestial; mas si no perdonáis a las personas sus ofensas, tampoco vuestro Padre os perdonará vuestras ofensas.” A la luz de otras Escrituras que hablan del perdón de Dios, Mateo 6:14-15 es la que mejor explica que la gente que se niega a perdonar a otr@s, realmente no han experimentado el perdón de Dios en ell@s mism@s. **El perdón puede sanar heridas espirituales y traer la paz y el amor que sólo Dios puede dar.**

### **B-Justicia restaurativa: *enaltece a las personas humildes***

Porque creemos y somos llamad@s a practicar la compasión cristiana, el modelo de justicia restaurativa debe de ser nuestra meta. La **justicia restaurativa**, también llamada **justicia reparadora** o **justicia compasiva**, es una forma de pensar la justicia cuyo foco de atención son las necesidades de las víctimas y de quienes son responsables del delito, y no el castigo a estos últimos ni el cumplimiento de principios legales abstractos. Es la contraposición a la justicia punitiva surgiendo como respuestas alternativas al delito y a los desórdenes sociales. En un proceso de justicia restaurativa, las personas involucradas en un hecho resuelven de manera colectiva cómo lidiar con las consecuencias de la ofensa y sus implicaciones futuras. Las víctimas juegan un rol activo en el proceso, mientras se anima a l@s "ofensor@s" a asumir la responsabilidad de sus acciones y reparar el daño que han hecho.

### **III-Conclusión:**

Mis querid@s hermn@s, yo soy un fiel creyente de los procesos de paz con justicia. Yo vine aquí a ser un instrumento de paz, no vine a decirte que te quedes en este lugar, tampoco a que te vayas. Vine a ayudarte a encontrar lo es lo mejor para ti y para esta iglesia de La Gracia. Es interesante poder ver en esta narrativa el proyecto de vida de Jesús el cual siempre se identifica con la gente marginada en nuestra sociedad. En su teología pastoral de inclusión de acompañar al pueblo siempre demostró la necesidad de un caminar junt@s en donde se logre una liberación que deje como resultado una nueva mujer y un nuevo hombre. **Vamos hacia una restauración y sanidad como propuesta de Navidad.**

## CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

God Himself does not propose to judge a person until that person is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete – thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

Mary Baker

## **A CANDLE**

Clara Bell Thompson

*A candle's but a simple thing...  
It starts with just a bit of string,  
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,  
It gathers wax upon the strand  
Until, complete and snowy white,  
It gives at last a lovely light.*



*Life seems so like that bit  
of string...  
Each deed we do a simple  
thing,  
Yet day by day if on life's  
strand*

*We work with patient heart and hand,  
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright,  
And gives at last a lovely light.*

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#### **CELEBRATING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which established those freedoms and rights that all signing countries pledged to uphold. Most countries have signed this agreement, and yet, unfortunately, they fail to live up to its basic agreements. It is difficult for those of us in America, who are blessed with freedom of speech, freedom to protest, freedom to assemble peacefully, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, etc., to identify with much of the world where such freedoms are not possible. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights promises these freedoms and yet they are not available to many of our fellow human beings.

In our Form VI Prayers of the People, we always pray for “all those who work for justice, freedom and peace,” and this year “those” can be “you.”

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, after the services, each person will have an opportunity to take an active step working toward justice, freedom, and peace for the world and on behalf of at-risk prisoners of conscience. Members of the local Amnesty International organization are planning to hold a Write-a-thon in the Parish Hall. The coffee hour will be as usual, but, in addition we will have available all the materials necessary for each person to send 12 letters on behalf of the 12

prisoners of conscience Amnesty has selected to be the target of a world-wide “blitz” on their behalf.

Since we know that many cannot take the time to write their own letters, we will have pre-written letters available for you to sign if you want. We will provide all paper, envelopes, and stamps to do this job.

Amnesty’s symbol is a light candle surrounded by barbed wire. It is a symbol that identifies each one of us as having the ability to light one candle of hope in a barbed-wire world.

Amnesty began many years ago when one man in England felt the moral imperative to do anything he possibly could to make a difference in the world. Others heard of this and joined his efforts. So one has become thousands and differences can be made.

Last year’s “blitz” of letters from around the world resulted in significant wins for 5 of the 12 cases spotlighted. Five prisoners of conscience were impacted positively by the “power of the pen!”

This year, through all of our efforts, we hope to shine the light of many candles into more dark places in the world.

**Won’t you be sure to join our efforts on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> after church!**

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## ***Altar Guild***

During this season of stewardship and thanksgiving, let us take time to recognize a ministry that often goes unnoticed. Grace Church has a very active Altar Guild that faithfully insure that the church is prepared for Sunday services, funerals, weddings or other special services. The Altar Guild members insure that all vestments, altar linens and vessels are cleaned and maintained. Our Altar Guild is composed of a small group of women who faithfully work quietly behind the scenes weekly, to insure that our Church look its Sunday best at all times.

These women wash and iron linen, clean and change votive candles, clean and polish all the vessels used during the service, and insure that all candles, those on the altar and those used by acolytes are filled with oil and ready to be used. They also insure that there is fresh holy water available at the front and rear of the church; that the altar and other areas of the church are adorned with fresh flowers.

The volunteers for this ministry work in teams of 2 individuals. Currently, there are four teams on a rotating schedule each month. As with many other committees and ministries at Grace Church, there is a need for more Altar Guild members. When you have an opportunity, take

time to greet and thank our Altar Guild members for their service to this ministry. Consider joining this group of dedicated women as a way of offering your time and talent in thanksgiving for the gifts God has provided to us. Speak with Sharon Werth if you wish to join this group of dedicated women.

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**G**racias a la vida que me ha dado Dios  
Gracias a la muerte que me ha hecho vivir  
Gracias a la historia que me hace recordar  
Que aunque el tiempo pase el recuerdo no me hace olvidar

Gracias a los astros que iluminan mi ser  
Que me llevan a la luna y me hacen retornar  
Gracias a la tierra que me invita a sembrar  
Y me hace retoñar en tiempo que parecen no prosperar

Gracias a mi alma que en paz impaciente mi ser  
Y realza mi entender en un misterio que no logro razonar  
Gracias al misterio que me hace florecer  
Que aunque no haya agua siempre veo un nuevo amanecer

Gracias a la consciencia que me ha hecho entender  
Que hay misterio que no podré nunca conocer  
Gracias a la vida que me ha dado luz  
Para ver lo oculto en lo claro que me quiere confundir

Gracias al hambre que no logro saciar  
El hambre que no me deja dormir, que no quiero llenar...  
Gracias por lo que no tengo y que no puedo alcanzar  
Que lo busco y no encuentro porque no lo quiero hallar

Gracias a las lágrimas que puedo derramar  
Que me alegra y me enluta, que me animan a mirar

Gracias a la vista que permite contagiarme mi paladar al saborear mi gusto de ayudar  
Gracias al oído que oye mi respirar  
Hablando con el tacto, abriendo esperanza con mi proceder

Gracias a la vida por dejarme soportar una vida que no puedo soltar y no deseo matar  
Gracias a la vida por el amor de mi vida  
Por amar sin medidas, por simplemente amar la vida

Gracias por lo que no tengo la capacidad de dar gracias  
Porque un día las gracias de la vida me abrirán las manos para dar gracias.

Por Amarilis Guzmán

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### *Sharing the Good News*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to announce that we have come to an agreement with the Rev. Adolfo Moronta to come to Grace/La Gracia as our Associate beginning January 15, 2017.



There is some history behind this announcement. After Mother Gladys left, I entered into dialogue with the vestry and the diocese about the future direction of ministry here. Our vestry had already decided that we should try to invest in additional clergy help in order that our congregation could move toward growth, but we were aware that we did not have the financial resources to hire a full time person. Our diocese has long supported a position ministering to our Spanish speaking congregation, and was committed to continuing that, but there is a shortage of clergy that are equipped to do that ministry, especially on a part time basis.

Since one of our long term parish goals is to become more unified as one church worshipping in two languages, a solution became obvious. We decided to search for a full time associate who was fully bilingual and bicultural in order to serve the congregation as a whole. His work will not be limited to the La Gracia congregation. He will be working with me as a full partner in ministry. The desire behind this is not to minimize my work load, but to allow for growth and new outreach. The diocese gave us a \$25,000 grant in order to begin, and in addition will pick up 50% of the financial package a full time priest entails.



Father Moronta seems to be the right person to fill this innovative and demanding job description. He was born and raised in New York, but moved with his family to the Dominican Republic for his teenage and early adult years. He has done theological studies in both the Dominican Republic and Virginia Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 2011, and is presently serving in two congregations in Alexandria, Virginia. I have been impressed both by his energy and his theological maturity.

Each clergy person in the Episcopal Church is asked to fill out what is called a "Ministry Portfolio". I wanted to share with all of you some excerpts from Father Adolfo's portfolio.

*"A priest's task is to help others discover their gifts... This help can be by encouragement, by invitation, by involvement, by participation, and by prayer. The priest is not a "father orchestra" who wants to play all the instruments."*

*"A priest has to have a strong connection with Christ – in spirit and in the way we live. My main spiritual tools are the Eucharist, the Daily Office, retreats, theological reading and the Bible."*


*"The essence of pastoral care is keeping one's heart and mind open to the needs of others and responding through prayer and action. Jesus guides all pastoral care ministries. For me, pastoral care requires that I step out of my comfort zone and, at the same time, be open to learning new ways of serving and carrying out my work."*

As we get closer to the time of his arrival, I will be arranging ways for as many of you as possible to meet him. Right now I am thinking of trying to hold a series of coffees in peoples' homes, as we did when I arrived. That was a valuable way for me to get to know many of you. For now, please keep him in your prayers. I am very pleased to be able to look forward to having the opportunity to work with him to build our ministry here at Grace/La Gracia.

Yours in Christ,

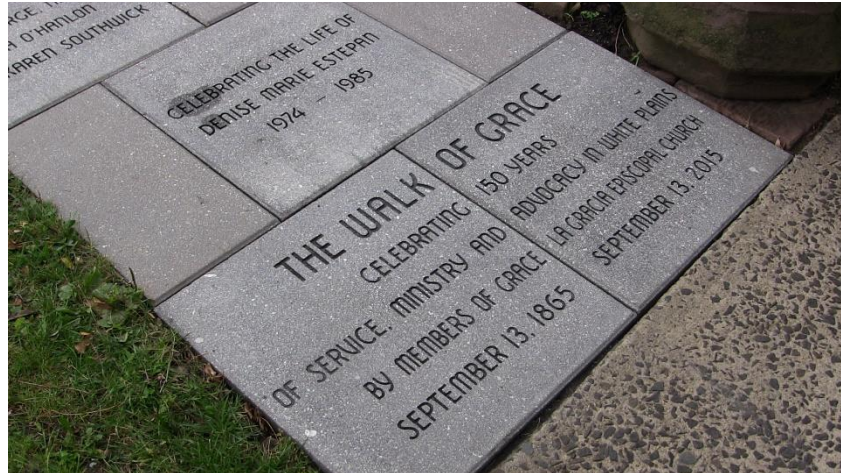
Richard Kunz

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<p>LIGHT ONE CANDLE. 27</p>  <p>MT. 24:42</p>	<p>LIGHT TWO CANDLES. 4</p>  <p>JN. 1:6-9</p>	<p>LIGHT THREE CANDLES. 11</p>  <p>MT. 11:2-6</p>	<p>LIGHT FOUR CANDLES. 18</p>  <p>MT. 1:18-25</p>
<p>DRESS WELL. 28</p>  <p>1 THESS. 5:8</p>	<p>GET UP EARLY. 5</p>  <p>ROM. 13:11-14</p>	<p>SHOW WELCOME. 12</p>  <p>HEB. 13:2</p>	<p>WATCH THE SUNRISE. 19</p>  <p>LAM. 1:26-38</p>
<p>CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN. 29</p>  <p>ISA. 2:1-5</p>	<p>GIVE IN SECRET. 6</p>  <p>PROV. 19:6</p>	<p>LOOK AT THE LIGHT. 13</p>  <p>PS. 8</p>	<p>SAY YES. 20</p>  <p>LK. 1:26-38</p>
<p>SHOW LOVE. 30</p>  <p>JN. 13:34,35</p>	<p>MAKE HAPPY NOISE. 7</p>  <p>PS. 100</p>	<p>DO SOMETHING NEW. 14</p>  <p>2 COR. 5:16,17</p>	<p>CELEBRATE A CHILD. 21</p>  <p>MT. 18:1-5</p>
<p>CHOOSE LIFE. 1</p>  <p>DEUT. 30:19,20</p>	<p>LISTEN CAREFULLY. 8</p>  <p>LK. 1:1-20</p>	<p>SING OUT LOUD. 15</p>  <p>PS. 98</p>	<p>SEE IN A NEW WAY. 22</p>  <p>ISA. 43:19</p>
<p>HEAR THE SPIRIT. 2</p>  <p>1 SAM. 3:1-10</p>	<p>REACH OUT. 9</p>  <p>GEN. 31:49B</p>	<p>CONTACT AN OLD FRIEND. 16</p>  <p>JN. 1:35-42</p>	<p>REMEMBER. 23</p>  <p>LK. 2:1-7</p>
<p>FEED THE HUNGRY. 3</p>  <p>MT. 25:35</p>	<p>SHARE ABUNDANTLY. 10</p>  <p>JN. 10:10</p>	<p>FEEL ENERGY. 17</p>  <p>ISA. 40:28-31</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>JN. 1:14</p>
<p><b>A D V E N T</b></p>			
<p>THOUGH THE SUN HAS SET THIS EVENING, WITH THE WINDOWS SHUTTERED TIGHT  HANG A LANTERN IN THE DOORWAY, GUESTS MAY YET APPROACH TONIGHT.  IN THE CORNER OF THE STABLE, WHERE THE ANIMALS ARE FED  GATHER HAY AND BRING A BLANKET, HURRY, MAKE A MANGER BED.  PLACES WE WOULD LEAST IMAGINE, DUSTY CORNERS OF THE HEART  LIVES, LONG SHUT BY FEAR OR SADNESS, THERE! GOD'S GIFT WILL STILL IMPART.  PROMISE OF A LIFE ABUNDANT, IN THAT MOST UNLIKELY PLACE  HANG YOUR LANTERN, BRING YOUR BLANKET, GREET HIM WITH YOUR WARM EMBRACE.</p>			

DEVOTIONS: REV. MERRY WATTERS \* ADVENT 2016 © \* POEM & DESIGN: REV. THOMAS MOUSIN

Advent Calendar 2016



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RESERVE YOUR ENGRAVED WALK OF GRACE STONE TODAY!

Participate in the beautification and upkeep of our lovely church grounds. Engrave a pathway stone along the ***Walk of Grace*** in thanksgiving of family, in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a family event.

For more information contact:

Stuart Madden [mstuartmadden@gmail.com](mailto:mstuartmadden@gmail.com) or 914-393-8403

Arlene Grant [arobgrant@verizon.net](mailto:arobgrant@verizon.net) or 914-699-6494

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**Downtown Music at Grace** began it's 29<sup>th</sup> Season with an outdoor concert in Renaissance Park featuring piper Jonathan Henken.



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

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