

Winter 2018

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains




The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

The Interim Rector's Letter



Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us.

Suscita tu poder, oh Señor, y con gran potencia ven a nosotros.




These opening words of the Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent are fitting for this period of transition at Grace/La Gracia. With these words, we promise to be open to the stirring—and perhaps disturbing—power of God. We promise to watch for a God who enters the hidden and untended “stables” of our lives, and we promise not to shut our eyes to the glaring light of God’s presence no matter how deep the darkness around us. We promise that we will not settle for being comfortable.

I love the season of Advent, and it means a great deal to me personally to begin ministry at Grace/La Gracia just before Advent. I love the sense of purpose and renewal that we affirm in this season, and I value deeply our paradoxical commitment to be both still and “stirred.” The first Sunday of Advent is the ‘New Year’s Day’ of our liturgical year, so on that day we renew our baptismal vows: *to proclaim by work and example the Good News of God in Christ; to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; and to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.* These vows provide the framework for commissioning and celebrating the ministry of your Search Committee. While the Search Committee promises to do due diligence in presenting an accurate portrait of the congregation, searching widely, and discerning the leadership qualities of candidates, the congregation promises to do due diligence in preparing for new ministry through prayerful self-study, attending to unfinished business, and allowing the Holy Spirit to move among us.

During Advent we offer to each other a quiet space and time in the midst of frantic busy-ness. We discover with each other a joy that is more peaceful than giddy, drawn together in hope by a grace beyond understanding. As we begin this journey together, let us keep in mind this poem by Jan Richardson:

Jan Richardson, “Where the Map Begins” [*Circle of Grace*, pp. 65-66]

This is not
any map you know.
Forget longitude
forget latitude.
Do not think
of distances
or of plotting
the most direct route.
Astrolabe, sextant, compass:



These will not help you here.

Look starward once,
then look away.
Close your eyes
and see how the map
begins to blossom
behind your lids,
how it constellates,
its lines stretching out
from where you stand.


You cannot see it all,
cannot divine the way
it will turn and spiral,
cannot perceive how
the road you walk

will lead you finally inside,
through the labyrinth
of your own heart,
your own belly
and lungs.

But step out
and you will know
what the wise who travelled this path before you
knew:
The treasure in this map is buried
not at journey's end
but at its beginning.

Judith

Estas palabras que dan inicio a la Colecta para el tercer Domingo de Adviento son apropiadas para este período de transición en Grace / La Gracia. Con estas palabras, prometemos estar abiertos al poder conmovedor y tal vez inquietante de Dios. Prometemos estar atentos a un Dios que entra en los "establos" ocultos y descuidados




de nuestras vidas, y prometemos no cerrar los ojos a la luz deslumbrante de la presencia de Dios sin importar cuán profunda sea la oscuridad que nos rodea. Prometemos que no nos conformaremos con estar cómodos.

Me encanta la temporada de Adviento, y para mí es muy importante comenzar a trabajar en Grace / La Gracia justo antes del Adviento. Me encanta el sentido de propósito y la renovación que afirmamos en esta temporada, y valoro profundamente nuestro compromiso paradójico de permanecer quietos y "conmovidos". El primer domingo de Adviento es el "Día de Año Nuevo" de nuestro año litúrgico, etc. ese día renovamos nuestros votos bautismales: proclamar por el trabajo y el ejemplo las Buenas Nuevas de Dios en Cristo; buscar y servir a Cristo en todas las personas, amando a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos; y luchar por la justicia y la paz entre todas las personas, y respetar la dignidad de cada ser humano. Estos votos proporcionan el marco para encargar y celebrar el ministerio del Comité de Búsqueda. Mientras el Comité de Búsqueda promete hacer la debida diligencia al presentar un retrato exacto de la congregación, buscar ampliamente y discernir las cualidades de liderazgo de los candidatos, la congregación se compromete a actuar con la debida diligencia preparándose para el nuevo ministerio mediante el autoanálisis con oración, atendiendo a inacabados negocios, y permitiendo que el Espíritu Santo se mueva entre nosotros.

Durante el Adviento, nos ofrecemos unos a otros un espacio y tiempo de tranquilidad en medio de nuestras ocupaciones. Descubrimos entre nosotros una alegría que es más pacífica que vertiginosa, unida en la esperanza por una gracia más allá de la comprensión. Al comenzar este viaje juntos, tengamos presente este poema de Jan Richardson:

Jan Richardson, "Donde comienza el mapa" [Circle of Grace, pp. 65-66]

Esto no es
cualquier mapa que conozcas
Olvida la longitud
olvida la latitud.
No pienses
en distancias
o de trazar
La ruta más directa.
Astrolabio, sextante, brújula:



Esto no te ayudará aquí.
Este es el mapa
eso comienza con una estrella.
Esta es la tabla
eso comienza con fuego,
con fuego,
con una luz antigua
eso ha sobrevivido
generaciones, imperios,
culturas, guerras.

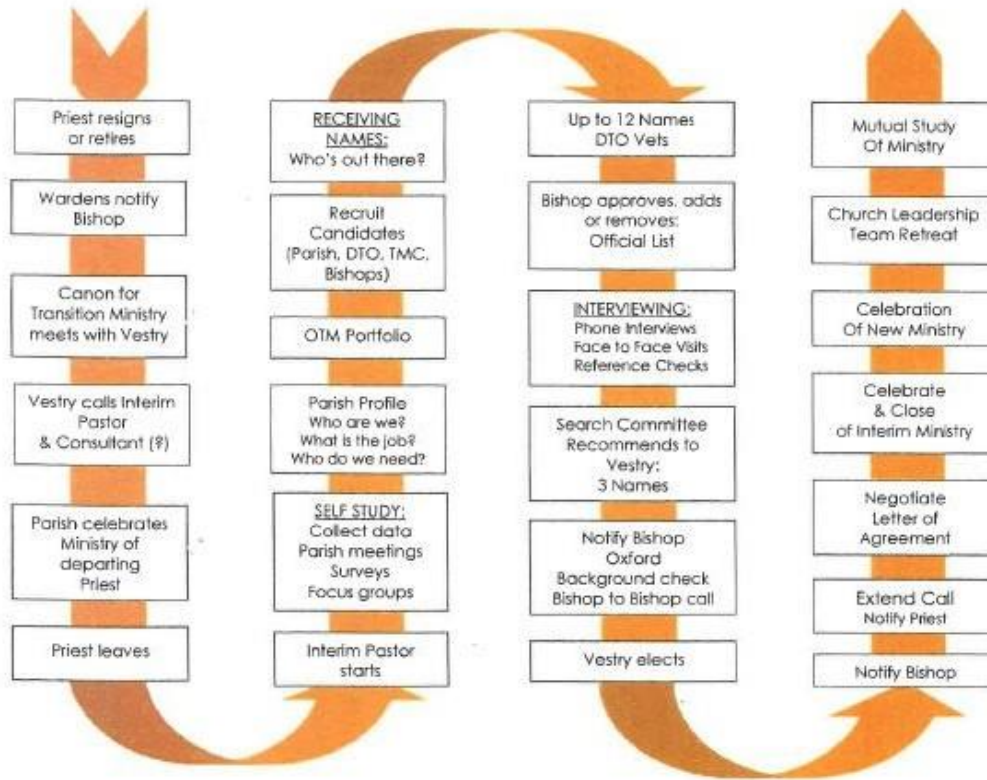
Mira hacia las estrellas una vez,
luego mira hacia otro lado.
Cierra tus ojos
y veras cómo el mapa
comienza a florecer
detrás de tus párpados,
cómo se constela,
sus líneas se extienden
desde donde estás parado

No puedes verlo todo,
no puede adivinar el camino
girará y girará en espiral
no puedo percibir cómo
el camino que recorres

te llevará finalmente dentro,
a través del laberinto
de tu propio corazón,
tu propio vientre
y pulmones.

Pero salir
y sabrás
lo que el sabio que viajó este camino antes que tú
sabía:
El tesoro en este mapa está enterrado
no al final del viaje
pero al principio.

JOURNEY THROUGH CHANGE



Reflections by your Search Committee

As we begin our Transition and the Search Committee undertakes its ministry, each member of the Search Committee agreed to share a brief reflection on what drew them to serve on the Search Committee and on their hopes for Grace/La Gracia. We hold them in prayer throughout this Interim period.

Carlos Munoz [Chair]

I believe the search for a new Rector is a task critical to the future of Grace/La Gracia and its place as a leader and servant to the White Plains community. I hope that my 25 years as a member of the Church places me in a position to play a useful role in this effort.



Daisy Calderon

I am very involved with the Latino ministry and La Gracia, and I have been active in Hospitality Ministry, Outreach Ministries, and EYC. I believe the selection of a new Rector is a determining factor in having a successful parish and leadership in the community. It is important for the Search Committee to select the right individual in terms of character, kindness, respect for others, and dedication to our parish family.

Linda Gallo

I have been a parishioner at Grace for 27 years, and I have had the opportunity to be an active participant in parish life and worship. I have taught Sunday School, served on the Welcoming Committee and on several Nominating Committees, co-chaired the 150th Anniversary celebrations, and as Chair of Stewardship on Vestry and as both Junior and Senior Warden. It was during my term as Senior Warden that Fr. Rich Kunz was called to be our Rector, and I cooperated with the Search Committee at that time to design the process and criteria for a Rector Search. I believe this range of experience will contribute to a timely and successful selection of a new Rector for Grace Church.

Arlene Roberts Grant

I happened upon Grace Church one Sunday in 2010 which, ironically, also happened to be “New Member Sunday”. The committee presentations that followed were interesting and informative and I chose to attend the Bible Study the following Wednesday. Eventually, a group of us decided to enroll in EfM (Education for Ministry), a 4-year educational program on Scripture, Church History, Theology and Spiritual Formation; and it has been a transformative experience for me. Upon graduating, I joined Grace’s Pastoral Care Committee and completed Eucharistic Visitor licensing with the diocese. It is now my hope serving on this Search Committee will support efforts to call our next rector who will strengthen prayer and Christian education in this vital parish.



Andrea Hamilton

I am invested in the Grace Church community and have been a member of this parish since I was a child. As a young steward I take great pride in serving as a member of the Search Committee to find the best candidate to lead this parish I call home. It is my hope and prayer that God continues to guide me on the right path to collaborate with other members of the Search Committee to find the person who is the best fit, guided by the light of the Lord, to lead this parish.

Stuart Madden

I came to Grace in March, 2011, drawn to Grace's inexhaustible commitment to service in its urban community, and to the intimate and inviting character of the 8 am service. I am an Usher and Lector for the early service, and I have become involved in several of Grace's activities, including the Walk of Grace and other Outreach Ministries, Bible Study, language teaching, and events with La Gracia. Grace has given me a right-sized and God-centered life.

Charlotte Roberson

I first visited Grace Church on Christmas Eve, 1979, and I enjoyed the service so much that I returned to meet the Rector. I have been involved in the Finance Committee, Outreach Ministries, and I am a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. The priests at Grace have had a very important spiritual and pastoral role in my life and in the life of my family, and they have shown me how important it is that our Rector be both a spiritual leader and a compassionate pastor who will be able to reach out to parishioners. Equally important is the Rector's leadership in the community: Grace church is in the heart of White Plains and has the potential to be a true leader for the wider church and the community.



Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 10th at 4 p.m. – Festival of Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 11th – Celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe

8:30 p.m. Eucharist

9:30 p.m. Mañanitas

Saturday, December 16th at 4 p.m. – Informal caroling in front of the church, followed by hot chocolate.

Open to parishioners and the public.

Saturday, December 23rd at 7:30 p.m. – La Gracia Christmas Party

Sunday, December 24th at 9:30 a.m. – One service only in English

Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Service which includes the Pageant

Sunday, December 24th at 8:00 p.m. – La Gracia Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service in English

Calendario Festivo

Domingo, Diciembre 10 4P.M. – Festival de Lecturas y Villancicos

Lunes, Diciembre 11 Celebración de la Virgen de Guadalupe

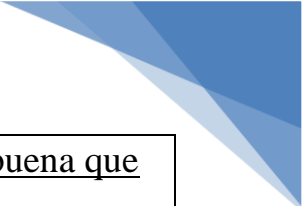
8:30 p.m. Eucaristía

9:30 p.m. Mañanitas

Sábado, Diciembre 16^a 4 p.m. Villancicos informales en el frente de la Iglesia. Seguido por un compartir con chocolate. Abierto a los parroquianos y al público.

Sábado, Diciembre 23 7:30 p.m. – La Gracia Cena de Navidad

Domingo, Diciembre 24 – Cuarto Domingo de Adviento – 9:30 a.m. – Un servicio en ingles solamente



Domingo, Diciembre 24 a las 4:00 p.m. – Servicio de familia de Nochebuena que incluye la presentación de la Natividad.

Domingo, Diciembre 24 8:00 p.m. Misa de Nochebuena de La Gracia

Domingo, Diciembre 24 10:00 p.m. Misa de Nochebuena en Ingles

Domingo, Diciembre 31 Primer Domingo después de Navidad – Sta Eucaristía
8:00 a.m. y 10:00 a.m

Misa de La Gracia a las 12:30 p.m.

La Iglesia va a abrir para la fiesta de año nuevo de White
Plains 11p.m. -1 a.m.

Latinos/ Hispanics: Facts about Latino Culture

Grace Episcopal Church is a culturally rich congregation that has white, African American, Caribbean, and Latinos worshiping under one roof. It is really amazing how we all come together as one as we work for the kingdom of God.

As part of our life together, we are blessed with the opportunity to learn more about the diverse cultural traditions among our parishioners. During my time as Associate Priest at Grace, I have been asked many times if the terms “Latino” and “Hispanic” have the same meaning. Technically, the two terms are not the same. “Hispanic” refers to those who are from Spain, and the term Latino refers to those who are from Latin America. However, I acknowledge that the two terms are often used interchangeably.

According to the latest census, Hispanic Americans and Latino Americans make up more than 17% of the U.S. population, and 54 million Latino/Hispanics live in the United States. Hispanics/Latinos are now considered the largest minority in this country and, believe it or not, the United States is the second largest Spanish speaking country in the world. Only Mexico has more Spanish speakers than we. Since Latinos/Hispanics come from different countries, they should not be seen as “one size fits all.” Each has their own culture, customs and traditions. Nevertheless, the strongest bonds that unite Latinos/Hispanics are language and religion.

In the Latino culture, celebrations play a big role. Latinos love to come together as a family or church to




a family or church to commemorate a particular event. For example, on the countdown to Christmas, there are many celebrations that take place before and after Christmas. Among these are the Novenas, Posadas, Virgin of Guadalupe, Nochebuena, Misa del Gallo, and the Reyes Magos (The Three Kings).

Posadas: Posadas are nine days of religious observance

celebrated throughout Latin America, but chiefly in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans in the United States. Festivities begin on December 16 and end on December 24. Children and adults dress up as Mary and Joseph in small processions that are held during the nine days before Christmas Eve. The Posadas are supposed to be a reenactment of the Joseph and Mary's search – as Pilgrims – for lodging on their way to Bethlehem. The tradition includes a party at a different home each night. "The Pilgrims" sing a song asking for shelter with the hosts replying in song before opening the door to offer hot punch, fried rosette cookies known as buñuelos, steaming tamales, and other holiday foods. The party ends with the breaking of a piñata in the shape of the Christmas star.

Novena: The Novena is a series of prayers that are said for nine straight days in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. The prayers are petitions, but are also offerings of thanksgivings.

Nochebuena (Christmas eve): While many Americans are setting out cookies for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, many Latino families are gathering to celebrate Nochebuena. Although festivities could vary from household to household, a large feast is generally prepared and there is traditional holiday music, dancing, and gift-giving. Depending on the family's religious beliefs, there is usually a trip to church to attend a late Mass known as Misa del Gallo. Misa del Gallo, or the Rooster's Mass, is celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve to mark the birth of baby Jesus.



The Three Kings: In many Spanish-speaking countries, Three Kings Day, or Día de los Reyes Magos, on Jan. 6 is more important than Christmas. The holiday honors the arrival of the Three Wise Men — Balthazar, Melchor and Gaspar— bearing gifts for the newborn Jesus, a story from the New Testament. At the start of the New Year, children typically write letters to the Three Kings asking for gifts.

Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe (Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe) is a popular feast especially among Mexicans. That feast celebrates the apparition of the Virgin Mary on December 9 and 12, 1531. The celebrations of Our Lady of Guadalupe begin on the eve of December 11 with the mañanitas. At Grace/ La Gracia, we will have a Eucharist on that day at 8:30 p.m. and the mañanitas afterwards.


Now more than ever, it is important that we understand and celebrate the culture and influence of Latinos and their role in the United States. Even though we might all be from different cultures, here at Grace Episcopal Church we are just one body in Christ. Just as it is written in John 17:21: “That they all be one, just as you Father are in me, and I in you.”

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Stewardship 2017

Once again we ask everyone to participate in our Stewardship Campaign. The theme for this year’s campaign is “Hope”. How does our Church increase our hope for a bright future? We have just celebrated Father Kunz’s ministry and we are beginning a new chapter in our lives at Grace/LaGracia. Father Moronta continues his excellent service to both congregations. Our interim pastor the Rev Dr. Judith Lee began her ministry in November. We pray for and hope that our search committee will find that very special person that we need for our next Rector. .

We have been blessed with a beautiful Church building and Rectory. We are hopeful because of the beauty of the building, the beauty of the music, the beauty of the words from the service and the beauty of the people who form this church we call Grace/LaGracia. We pray each time that we come together for spiritual guidance for ourselves and our community.



How can we ensure that Grace Church will continue to be here to give hope to all of us? Let us set aside a special time to think about our present level of stewardship at Grace Church and consider increasing our financial pledge and/or service to Grace Church.

Pledge letters have been mailed out. Pledge Sunday was November 12th. We thank all who have pledged. If you have not already made a commitment please do so as soon as possible. Pledge forms are available in the back of the church. Let us give generously of our time, talent and fortune to ensure a bright future for Grace/LaGracia.


Charlotte Roberson
Stewardship Chairperson

Carta del Comité de Mayordomía

Una vez más pedimos a todos que participen en nuestra Campaña de Mayordomía. El tema de la campaña de este año es "Esperanza". ¿Cómo aumenta nuestra Iglesia nuestra esperanza hacia un futuro brillante? Acabamos de celebrar el ministerio del Padre Kunz y estamos comenzando un nuevo capítulo en nuestras vidas en Grace / La Gracia. El padre Moronta continúa su excelente servicio a ambas congregaciones. Nuestro pastor interino, la Reverenda Dra. Judith Lee comenzó su ministerio en noviembre. Oramos y esperamos que nuestro comité de búsqueda encuentre a esa persona tan especial que necesitamos para ser nuestro próximo Rector.

Hemos sido bendecidos con una hermosa Iglesia y Rectoría. Estamos esperanzados de que por la belleza de nuestra Iglesia, la belleza de la música, la belleza de los sermones del servicio y la belleza de las personas que forman esta iglesia que llamamos Grace / La Gracia. Oramos cada vez que nos reunimos por una guía espiritual para nosotros y nuestra comunidad.

¿Cómo podemos asegurarnos de que Grace Church/ La Gracia continúe aquí para darnos esperanza a todos nosotros? Dejemos a un lado un tiempo especial para pensar acerca de nuestro grado actual de mayordomía en Grace Church/La Gracia y consideremos aumentar nuestra promesa financiera y / o servicio a Grace Church/La Gracia.



Los formularios de promesas han sido enviados por correo y otros se les han entregado personalmente. El domingo de promesas fue el 12 de noviembre. Agradecemos a todos los que se han comprometido. Si aún no se ha comprometido, hágalo tan pronto como sea posible. Los formularios de promesas están disponibles en la parte posterior de la iglesia. Demos generosamente de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro para asegurar un futuro brillante para Grace / La Gracia.

Charlotte Roberson
Presidente de Mayordomía

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE KITCHEN!

On Friday, October 20th, Chef D'Amour of Break Bread not Hearts held a cooking class for our teens and some invited guests. The teens prepared a delicious meal featuring a roasted corn red lentil soup. The first ingredient is Love. Chef D'Amour purchased the rest of the ingredients earlier in the day at a farmers market in NYC; everything was beautiful and fresh. The teens learned how to roast peppers over the stove, proper cutting techniques and were introduced to new foods including mustard greens and sunchokes. They also had an opportunity to discuss future career goals and learned that along the way, plans change and new opportunities arise (Chef D. studied anthropology in college!) but the important take away is to do what you enjoy.






Project connect will attempt one more T2T event before the end of the year.

Elizabeth Carden

A Whiff of Convention.....

On a cold winter's day the 241st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York was convened Nov. 11, 2017 at the Cathedral Church of St. John The Divine. The motto this year was "Welcome the Stranger. Stand with the Vulnerable".

The lay delegates from Grace/LaGracia were: Irene Alves, Sorraya Elliott And Daisy Calderon. Fr. Moronta was the clergy delegate.

- 
- 8:30 am Registration and a perusal of the exhibit booths
- 9:30 am The morning session began with the convention called to Order with opening prayer, the establishment of a quorum, Credentials committee report and instructions for the day. The voting was done electronically.

Bishop Dietsche's address was excellent. The complete address will be shared in the Episcopal New Yorker and also sent to all the parishes in the Diocese. Some key points in his speech were:

- His visit to Hombolo Leprosy Hospital in central Tanganyika and the nearby village of Zepsia
- The establishment of an Diocesan Credit Union (brochure and pledge card available for committing to future deposits.) The credit union will be federally protected.
- A reminder that 2018 is the Year of Lamentations
- The killing of 9 martyrs at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston 2yrs ago
- The violence in Charlottesville this summer and all of the subsequent violence
- Something dangerous and plainly evil has been unleashed in America and it is not clear yet how we are going to pull it back in.


Addresses to the Convention were also made by Bishop Shinn and Bishop Glasspool.

There was the referral of resolutions, presentations of awards and the Holy Eucharist.

Lunch

After lunch the convention resumed and the voting results for diocesan positions were shared. The results were such that a second ballot was unnecessary. The afternoon session consisted of reports, voting on resolutions, the Bishop's appointments, commissioning and dismissal.

It is always a privilege and a humbling experience to attend the convention. The history and majesty of the Cathedral is awe-inspiring. Meeting old friends and making new ones. Remembering that there have been 240 previous conventions before this one, each dealing with the important issues of that particular time. The



symbolism of the open Bible, with lighted candle nearby as a reminder that our deliberations take place in the context of a sacred tradition. I have been to a number of conventions but this was a new experience for Sorraya and Daisy and they too were glad they came. Fr.Moronta had enjoyed previous conventions in another diocese. Sitting there it is evident that whatever worldly problems there may be our faith and our Church is strong.

Irene Alves

PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST

In the coming season of Advent and Christmas, we are most familiar with the New Testament accounts concerning Christ – his birth, his life, and his death. It might be appropriate, however, as an inspirational discipline for the season, to look back into the Old Testament and become more familiar with the many prophecies concerning Christ that are to be found there, well before the event in the stable that changed the world.

Description **Fulfillment**

Prophecy

Would be the “Seed of a Woman”
Galatians 4:4

Genesis 3:15

Promised Seed of Abraham
Acts 3:25

Genesis 18:18

Promised Seed of Isaac
Matthew 1:2

Genesis 17:19

Promised Seed of Jacob
Luke 3:34

Numbers 24:17

Will descend from Tribe of Judah
Luke 3:33

Genesis 49:10

Heir to the Throne of David
Matthew 1:1

Isaiah 9:7

Born in Bethlehem
Matthew 2:1

Micah 5:2

Time of his birth
Luke 2:1-7

Daniel 9:25

Born of a virgin
Luke 1:26-35

Isaiah 7:14

The death of the infants
Matthew 2:16-18

Jeremiah 31:15

Flee into Egypt
Matthew 2:14

Hosea 11:1

Ministry in Galilee
Matthew 4:12-16

Isaiah 9:1-2

As a prophet
John 6:14

Deut. 18:15

Priest after Melchizedek
Hebrews 6:20

Psalms 110:4

Rejection by the Jews
John 1:11

Isaiah 53:3

Growth characteristics
Luke 2:52

Isaiah 11:2

His triumphal entry
John 12:13-14

Zechariah 9:9

Betrayal by a friend
Mark 14:10

Psalm 41:9

Sold for 30 pieces of silver
Matthew 26:15

Zechariah 11:13

Money returned for Potter's Field
Matthew 27:6-7

Zechariah 11:13

Updates on Construction, Upgrades and Repairs at Grace Church

Organ Stained Glass Windows Repairs

Prior to the construction of the Renaissance and the adjacent plaza, the Cappelli Organization was required to establish an escrow account in the sum of \$55,000. The intent of the account was to cover possible construction damage to the church. At the request of the Vestry, the escrow funds were released. When coupled with a generous donation of a parishioner, Grace/La Garcia is now able to refurbish the stained-glass windows and repair our magnificent pipe organ.

Most of our beautiful stained glass windows are in serious need of repair and cleaning. The project will include the repair or replacement of wood frames and sills and re-soldering and glass replacement as needed. Repair of the stained-glass windows will begin in late November. Unfortunately, since parts are on order from England, repair of the organ cannot begin until January.

Water Proofing Basement Rectory

Waterproofing of the Rectory's basement has elevated to a priority project. The basement leakage is causing damage to the structural beams. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will consult with appropriate construction professionals and make a repair presentation to the vestry. Joe Gallo has asked several of his customers who are contractors to submit estimates for waterproofing the basement. Possible solutions range for an interior French drain to exterior excavating around the foundation. The cost has not yet been determined.



Elevator repair

This project has proven to be much more complicated than we originally thought. When we examined the elevator shaft, we realized the repair would be more extensive and consequently, more costly as well. We have drawings from the engineer and are now putting together funding sources for the repair. Hopefully the repair will be completed sometime next year.

Funding Present and Future Repairs

Funding of major repairs is an ongoing concern. That is why we need a Capital improvement fund. The \$55,000 in funds we have received will defray some costs, but unfortunately is insufficient to complete all projected repairs. That is why a Capital improvement fund is needed. In addition, that is also one of the reasons why we have welcomed the additional revenue generated from rentals of church space to individuals and to film and or television studios.

Walter Simon

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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***


Our youth members started the 2017-18 school year creating farewell gifts for Father Rich and Dr. Barbra. The Pre-K to grade 6 members cut out photos of Grace parishioners and created a framed collage. The Rite 13 and J2A groups put together an album with personal notes and photos from past youth events that took place during Father Rich's tenure at Grace. These gifts were presented during Father Rich's last service on October 22.

As the year began we had some changes to our Christian Education teaching staff:

- *Little Lambs* - preK-Gr.1 - Lyndsey Wall has joined Linda Gallo to co-teach.
- *Primary* - Gr. 2-3 - Andrea Lacourciere-MacLeish has joined Leigh Burton & Rosa Preston as co-teachers.
- *Intermediate* - Gr. 4-6 - Curt Constable has stepped down. Michael Heffner continues. We **need 1 additional teacher** to co-teach with Michael. *Might that be you?*
- *Rite 13* - gr. 7-8 - Donna Louis & George O'Hanlon continue.
- *J2A* - Gr. 9-12 - Marissa Boylan has moved out of Westchester. Rudy Breach and Ashley Elliott have joined Lauren Reid as co-teachers. Great to have young adults who can reach our high schoolers on their level.
- *Assistants* - Valencia Carrol has moved away. Greta Leslie & Cynthia Sangurima Brown continue. Anna Kristina O'Hanlon and Nik O'Hanlon have agreed to be our teen assistants when they are available.

Our teacher recruits come from you, the parishioners, please consider giving your time and talent to join our teaching staff. This is the best way to carry our faith into the future! Contact Donna Louis for more information.

The Sunday School curriculum is from the Virginia Theological Seminary and is based on a 3 year cycle. For 2017-18 we are in the Chalice Year whose lesson




themes revolve around understanding the Eucharist. Preparations are in the works for our annual Christmas Pageant during the 4pm service on Christmas Eve.

New youth members are always welcome! Statistics show that 90% of church parishioners first visited after being invited by a church member. So extend those invitations to friends and family!

2017-18 Class Schedules

December 2	3:00-8:00pm	TENTATIVE - Saturday, Santa's Workshop sponsored by J2A
December 3	9:50 am	Sunday School Classes meet, Advent I
	11:30am	Rite 13 & J2A meet
December 10	9:50 am	Sunday School Classes meet
	11:30am	Rite 13 & J2A meet
December 17	10:00 am	Family Service
	11:30 am	Pageant rehearsal in Church
December 24	2:30 pm	Children arrive for pageant costuming
	4:00 pm	Christmas Pageant at Family Mass
December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service, No Sunday School, Rite 13 or J2A – Christmas vacation
December 31	10:00 am	No Sunday School, Rite 13 or J2A – Christmas vacation
January 7	9:50 am	Sunday School Classes meet
	11:30am	Rite 13 & J2A meet
January 14	10:00 am	No Sunday School, Rite 13 or J2A - MLK, Jr.
Weekend		
January 21	10:00 am	Family Service
	11:30am	Rite 13 & J2A meet
January 28	9:50 am	Sunday School Classes meet
	11:30 am	Annual Meeting; Game Day sponsored by Rite 13
February 4	9:50 am	Sunday School Classes meet
	11:30am	Rite 13 & J2A meet
February 11	9:50 am	Sunday School Classes meet



11:30am	Rite 13 & J2A meet
February 18 10:00 am	No Sunday School, Rite 13 or J2A - Presidents' Weekend/Midwinter Vacation, Lent I – Great Litany
February 25 10:00 am	No Sunday School, Rite 13 or J2A - Midwinter Vacation
11:30am	Rite 13 meets – Easter basket project

Donna Louis

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR ALL!


Can we do better this year? Last year, Grace Church donated \$1,000 which turned into 40 gift cards providing those special holiday treats for 40 families.

Once again, Grace Church has the opportunity to provide those holiday “extras” to families serviced by Lifting Up Westchester. Because we are so very aware of our abundance and Christian responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters, we can give families the delight of adding those special items to their holiday dinners.

There are 300+ families across Westchester County who have been past recipients of holiday grocery bags. Families receiving a grocery bag from Lifting Up Westchester have lots of basics: a turkey or ham, stuffing, vegetables, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce among other foods. What is missing from the bag are those items which makes each family’s holiday special to them. A gift card in the amount of \$25 fills in that gap.

As we thank the Lord for our abundance and joy, let’s consider those among us who do not have the resources to provide a special meal for their families.

How can you help? Beginning Sunday, November 19th and culminating on Sunday, December 17th, you can contribute after the 10AM. If you would like to purchase a \$25 gift card from Stop & Shop, Shop Rite or a general card, including the option



of cash or a check (payable to Lifting Up Westchester) in any amount, it would be much appreciated. Linda Gallo will be collecting after the 10 AM service. Can't be there? Please leave an envelope with Maria Campos during the week to Linda's attention.

Have a joyful and peaceful Christmas,

Lifting Up Westchester – Linda Gallo

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

As we say “Goodbye” to Fr. Rich and Dr. Barbra, I want to share a few reflections about my experience with them. When they came to Grace seven years ago, I had just been back in White Plains for four years. My return to Grace came after spending 27 years in Florida.

Dr. Barbra and I bonded immediately as if we had always known each other. It felt like we adopted each other as mother and daughter.

I am happy that they are retiring in good health and with plans to continue enjoying what has always been a pleasure: hiking, biking and enjoying nature. At the same time, I am sad to see them leave.

As Grace/La Gracia embarks on a search for a new rector, we welcome The Reverend Dr. Judith Lee as Interim. I have mixed feelings about the change, as is natural, but believing that “God is in charge” means I must relinquish those concerns and relax. The changes will be peaceful and just what we need at this time. This is what we must believe.

Elsie Adams



A PRAYER FOR GROWING OLDER

(At the last Sage meeting before she left, Dr. Barbra shared this prayer. She thought it would be appreciated by the whole congregation and asked that it be printed in this Angelus.)

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from the burden of trying to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody. Helpful, but not bossy with my vast store of wisdom. (It does seem a pity not to use it all but you know, Lord, I do want a few friends at the end.)

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; let me get to the point swiftly.

Seal my lips from my aches and pains. They are increasing and I do love to talk about them more and more as the years go by.

Help me to endure with patience the tales of others' pains even if I don't really enjoy hearing about them.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksure attitude when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that, occasionally, I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I don't want to be a sour old person. They are so hard to be around.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected people and places and the grace to acknowledge that goodness.

AMEN (This prayer is attributed to a 17th c. nun)



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

THE MAYONNAISE JAR...AND COFFEE

By Laura Bankston

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar...and the coffee...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “yes.”

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

“Now,” said the professor, as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – your God, your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff.”

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on

the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”


One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. “I’m glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there’s always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.”

Book Club Update



The Book Club launched the 2017-2018 season while wining and dining over lunch at Gaucho Grill in White Plains. This season brings another line-up of



fascinating reads, including **A Man Called Ove** (Dec), **Lincoln in the Bardo** (Jan), **Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood** (Feb), **Hidden Figures** (March), **Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI** (April), **Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World** (May), and **My Name is Lucy Barton** (June). Interested in joining the Book Club? Contact Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com)

A Letter from Father Kunz and Dr. Barbra

October 29, 2017

To our Grace Family,

What a wonderful send-off you gave us last Sunday! Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity! The warmth and support and love which you expressed to us were a reminder of why we have enjoyed our time at Grace so much, and will stay with us as we enter this new phase of our life together. You will continue in our hearts and our prayers as you enter into the search process. Grace/La Gracia is a very special parish, and I trust that God will continue to bless you in your ministry and in your life together.


In His love, Father Kunz and Dr. Barbra

Reverend Kunz has also reminded us to keep him and Barbra in our prayers. If we wish, he has provided us with the following contact information:

Address: 99 Ridgetop Circle
#202
Brevard, North Carolina 28712
Cell Phone Number: 609-947-4986
Personal email: kunzrichard@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.



The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the word; the word changes us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES FROM AN INSPIRATIONAL WOMAN

Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983)

Corrie Ten Boom authored a number of books that you might also like to read. She is most famously known for "The Hiding Place," the incredible story of her life. The title refers to the secret place where her Dutch Christian family hid countless Jewish people needing protection in her home, and is based on this scripture: "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word." (Psalm 119:114)

You will find it is necessary to let things go, simply for the reason that they are too heavy.

God takes our sins – the past, present, and future, and dumps them in the sea and puts up a sign that says NO FISHING ALLOWED.

If God sends us on stony paths, he provides strong shoes.

What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, so is prayer to the soul.

Worry is like a rocking chair: it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere.



LOOKING AHEAD!

December 10 – Human Rights Day

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 28 – Congregational Meeting

February – Black History Month

February 14 – Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

March 11 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 25 – Palm Sunday, Holy Week

March 30 – Good Friday

April 1 – Easter



Rest in Peace – Elizabeth Ann Washington Carson



The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH