



MAY ~ JUNE, 2011
The Rev. Richard A. Maxwell, Rector
55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
860 233-0825 www.gracehartford.org



DEAR FRIENDS

By The Rev. RICHARD A. MAXWELL
Rector



Happy Easter! We've made it through the long slog of Lent and the sorrow of Holy Week to meet with joy this Easter season. Ah, Easter! The celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A wonderful, joyful feast . . . the highpoint of the church year.

Just the other day I was discussing the resurrection with a couple of people in my office. They had called a few days before and asked for this meeting, wanting to get to know me a little better. It turns out that they also had a couple of faith questions they wanted to discuss, and the resurrection was one of the issues causing them the most trouble. Did I believe in it? How could it have happened? What was the risen Jesus like?

Of course, these are questions that we'd all like answers to. Unfortunately, however, these are not questions that interested the evangelists. We hear nothing in the Gospels about what happened in the tomb — only that Jesus wasn't there when his friends arrive expecting to find his body. The appearances of the risen Lord don't help us much, either. Sometimes the evangelists tell us that Jesus' appearance is so altered that his friends don't recognize him (remember Mary Magdalene outside the tomb in the Gospel of John), and that he can apparently pass through locked doors, appearing and disappearing at will. All of this seems to indicate a transformed "spiritualized" Jesus. Yet at other times Jesus offers his very concrete, physical body to be touched (remember his appearance to the

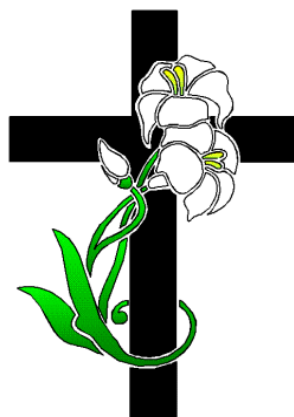
disciple Thomas), and shares breakfast with his friends. All of this seems to indicate a very real human Jesus. No, the evangelists don't tell us how the resurrection happened, or what the risen Jesus was really like.

So what DO the evangelists tell us about? . . . What are they really interested in? They're interested in what happens to the people who encounter the risen Lord. In the Gospels, the important thing about the resurrection is not how it occurred or what the risen Jesus was like. The important thing about the resurrection is the transformation that occurs in those who meet the risen Christ. Remember, the disciples flee when Jesus is arrested. And, except in the Gospel of John which places the beloved disciple at the foot of the cross, all of the disciples are in hiding throughout the crucifixion. Yet when they meet the risen Christ, the clueless and terrified disciples are transformed into apostles, filled with the faith and courage that leads them to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Those who encounter the risen Christ experience the Kingdom of God in the here and now. And they are utterly transformed. THIS is what interests the evangelists.

It interests them because this transformation is still possible. We too can encounter our risen Lord and be utterly transformed. God is still with us. In Christ, the eternal God has come to us and lives with us. As the Methodist bishop William Willimon writes, "The world is alive with the intrusions of God, the comings and goings of the divine." We simply must be alive to this reality, alert to the presence of the divine in the events of our lives. Christ comes to us over and over again.

May this Easter season be filled with joy for you . . . the joy of meeting our risen Lord and Savior. May all your uncertainty and fear be washed away, and may you experience the Kingdom of God in the here and now. May you be transformed into apostles of love and peace, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully yours,
Max+



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

www.gracehartford.org

The Rev. Richard Anderson Maxwell, *Rector*
The Rev. Gary Mongillo, *Deacon*
The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Senior Associate Priest*
The Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Pokorny, *Associate Priest*
Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry

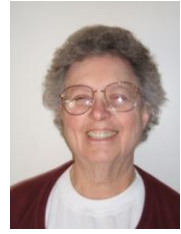
Thomas Phillips, *Senior Warden*
James Shafer, *Junior Warden*
Doug Bowman, *Clerk*
Elaine Phillips, *Treasurer*
Eunice Lyman, *Assistant Treasurer*
Paul Bisailon, Jane Lacedonia, Carol Larco-Murzyn,
Sandra Morgan, Charles Morse, John Pryor

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FINANCIAL CORNER



By ELAINE PHILLIPS
Treasurer

Today was a lovely spring day — birds singing, green shoots arising from the earth, even some hardy flowers blooming. It's getting hard to remember the seemingly endless snows of last winter. But at the time, how could we even think of the upcoming spring as a reality? Now, it's possible to think even of summer.

My winter of immersion in the prospective deficit was kinda like that, too. The deficit was huge, and so many people were already contributing so much. How could we come up with more? But it is happening — like the green shoots of spring, donations and pledges are coming in. We even have new members of the parish who have *requested* pledge envelopes. Wow!

The deficit is still there, and no doubt there will be unexpected expenses that will threaten to blast a hole in the budget again, but the people of Grace are showing that they really care about our little parish. Thanks to everyone who has helped to bring us this far. I'm certainly going to enjoy the spring a lot more than I enjoyed last winter.



June 2, 2011

Ascension Thursday

The Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated at Grace with a Solemn High Mass at 6:00 PM followed by a potluck supper in Nason Hall.

Milestones

Graceful People in the News

We congratulate **Sandra Morgan**, associate professor of management in the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford, for receiving the Innovation Award for her paper, "Three Thinking Exercises," at the 25th Annual Mid-Atlantic Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference held in Philadelphia, Pa., March 18-19, 2011.

We applaud Senior Warden **Thomas Anthony Phillips** for his receipt, on April 5, 2011, of the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award from the Federal Aviation Administration of the United States Department of Transportation, given in recognition of his "contributions to building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world through practicing and promoting safe flight operations for 50 consecutive years." (See page 6 for a separate article on this milestone.)

We note with sadness the passing, on April 6, 2011 in New York City, of **John Herbert Lander**, 77, of Canton. John loved congregational singing and would heartily join in. He contributed to flower arranging for the altar (although he had a special disdain for carnations, poinsettias, and any red flower) and was an active and proud member of the committee that re-landscaped the garden in front of the church. There are plans to dedicate the garden to his memory. John's requiem mass will be here on Thursday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m.

We share in the joy of **Jan Miel** and **Elizabeth MacKiernan Miel** for the birth, on April 9, 2011 in California, of their granddaughter, Alexis Violet Miel.

Message from Deacon Gary

Thank you to all who have been bringing in coupons. I have been handing them over to the social service department in Southington, which has been giving them out to the many people who are struggling to buy groceries in this tough economy. Thanks for all your help.

Peace, Deacon Gary+

A Man of Many Talents

Senior Warden Cited by FAA

Thomas Anthony Phillips, our Senior Warden for the past year and a half, is a man of many talents. He is, first and foremost, a husband, father, and grandfather. He is also an engineer, business executive, champion bike racer, professional airplane pilot, college instructor, scuba diver, choir member, farmer, and, as the members of the Grace Church Wednesday Morning Breakfast Club can attest, a *raconteur par excellence*.

Recently, the FAA took note that it has been a half century since he was first licensed to fly an airplane, and it awarded him, on April 5, 2011, a Wright Brothers “Master Pilot” Award for 50 consecutive years of piloting aircraft safely. Tom scoffs at the honor, saying that the only reason he got it is because of his age. But that modesty belies the continuous effort it took to obtain and maintain his license without misstep for so long a period of time.

As Tom tells it, “When I was a kid in Brooklyn, NY, I used to get sunburned tonsils watching the airplanes flying in and out of Floyd Bennett Field. I can’t remember never wanting to fly. I had my first ride in 1949 from Rockaway Airport on Long Island to Staten Island and back. I loved it!”

Later, while attending Cornell University, Tom had a job as Line Flunky at Ithaca Municipal Airport for 75 cents an hour credit towards flying lessons. Two years later, he passed his private pilot check ride. It was one day before his first wedding anniversary and nine days after his first son was born. His wife Elaine was his first passenger. He passed his Instrument Rating in 1972, and spent years flying in upstate New York and New England for business and pleasure. When the family moved to Connecticut in 1976, he started flying at Brainard Field and then Windham Airport.

Tom says, “Flying is the best job in the world! I’ve met and flown with a lot of great people. My boyhood dream was to be a fighter pilot, but I had given that up as a teenager as too impractical. However, I never thought in a million years I’d be checking in with Air Traffic Control, ‘Center, this 550 sierra foxtrot, Flight level 350.’ So, if anyone is looking for a Geriatric Jet Jockey, I’m your man!”

Parish Directory Corrections & Updates

By TORI BURNS

Here are the latest updates for the Grace Episcopal Church 2011 Parish Directory.

GRACE MEMBERS

BURT, Richard

Email: Richard.Burt@ct.gov

LACEDONIA, Mark and Marijane (Jane)

Correct Mailing Address: PO Box 715, Simsbury, CT 06070

MELUSKY, Pamela

Delete Mobile.

ODOMS, Coralie

Add Mobile: 860-916-2297

KENNON, John (New)

26 Russ Street, Apt. A11

Hartford, CT 06106

Home Phone: 860-246-8101

FRIENDS OF GRACE

CARSON, Sara and David (New)

1 Gold Street, #23A

Hartford, CT 06103

Sara's Mobile: 860-246-9132

COHN, Catherine (Cathy) (Name Correction)

Address correction:

1271 4th Street

Monterey, CA 93940

Mobile: 860-305-9397

COHN, Heather

Address change:

42-11 Newtown Road

Astoria, NY 11103

MALICK, Larry

Add Work Phone: 860-677-2177

MARBLE, William (Bill) and Barbara (New)

117 Tracy Drive

Manchester, CT 06042-2390

860-647-1621

wamarble@yahoo.com

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

“Signature” Supper

Our parish is having an all-parish dinner on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, to welcome new arrivals to Grace and to celebrate the culinary history of the parish. The food served will be “signature” dishes from parish members, including some who are now cooking in heaven.

We will share the background of the recipes and remember some former Grace saints. Newer members of our Grace family are most welcome to contribute dishes as well. Time: 6 p.m. Place: Grace Church Parish Hall.

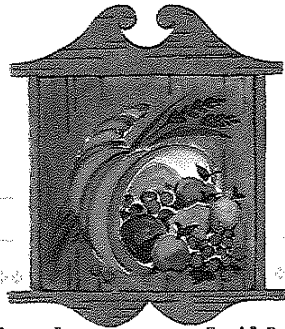
Among the dishes expected to be served: an Amish-style lima bean casserole from the late Michael (née Blanche Adelaide Lattimore Hungerford) Icaza’s recipe, a green bean casserole from the late Phyllis Atwood’s recipe, and baked stuffed shrimp from the late Raymond P. Howell’s recipe. The hope is that Enid Fisher can be persuaded to cook curried goat and make her famous Jamaican meat patties, that Richard Kandetzki can be encouraged to provide one of his Brazilian delicacies, and that Barbara Galbreath can be tempted to bake some of her fabulous cookies.

Sandra Morgan and Betsy Rose are coordinating this fun event, the exact details of which are still “in process.” See either one of them with your culinary offers and suggestions.



“Signature” Supper Treats?

Here's what's cookin':
Baked Lima Beans
with Sour Cream
Serves 8 more
or less



Recipe from the
kitchen of:
Michael Icaza

1 lb. dried baby lima beans	1 tblsp. dry mustard
3/4 tsp. salt	1 tblsp. molasses
1/2 cup butter or margarine	1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup brown sugar	

Soak dried beans overnight in water. Next day drain off water, cover with fresh water, add 1 tsp. salt and cook until tender - about 30 to 40 minutes. Drain again and put in a medium-size casserole. Dot butter or margarine over the hot beans.

Mix the sugar, mustard and remaining salt together in a bowl and sprinkle over the beans. Drizzle with the molasses and finally pour the sour cream over the beans. Mix tenderly. Bake in a 350 deg. or moderate oven for one hour.

NOTES: I don't always use the entire amount of salt. Sometimes I add a little more of the molasses. You need to watch the beans as they cook the first time; once in a while you get a bag of old beans and they take longer to cook to tender.

This is "Michael" Icaza's "secret" recipe, as typed on a recipe card herself, for her popular Baked Lima Beans with Sour Cream. It is an Amish dish that she often brought to pot luck suppers at Grace Church.

Descended from one of the founding families of Baltimore, MD, Mrs. Icaza was married to the late Frank Icaza. They lived on Carriage Hill Drive in Wethersfield, where they raised their three sons, Carlos ("C.B."), David, and Peter.

Although her real first name was Blanche, her dad expected her to be a boy, and he called her "Michael" from birth. This nickname persisted for her entire life. Virtually no one at Grace knew her actual, correct first name. And, she liked it that way.



May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>May Notes</p> <p>Contemplative Prayer Group (Tuesdays, 7 p.m.)</p> <p>Education Hour (Sundays, 9:45 a.m.) Healing Mass (Tuesday, 10th, 5:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Requiem Mass for John Lander (Thursday, 5th, 11 a.m.)</p> <p>Bishop's 5K for Kids (Saturday, 14th)</p> <p>Vestry Meeting (Sunday, 15th ~ 12:15 p.m., Rector's Office)</p> <p>Memorial Day (Monday, 30st)</p>					
<p>Easter II 1 Low Sunday</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p>	<p>St. Mark 2 The Evangelist</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> AA</p>	<p>St. Philip 3 & James, Apostles</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11 a.m. John Lander Requiem</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 5:30 p.m. Low Mass</p>	6	7
<p>Easter III 8 ♥Mother's Day♥</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p>	<p>9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Healing Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's</p> <p>4:00 p. m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Bishop's 5K for Kids</p> <p>8:00 a.m. On-site Registration 9:30 a.m. 5K Start 9:45 a.m. Kids' Field Day</p>
<p>Easter IV 15</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass 12:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's</p> <p>4:00 p. m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass</p>	20	21
<p>Easter V 22</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's</p> <p>4:00 p. m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass</p>	27	28
<p>Easter VI 29 Rogation Sunday</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p>	<p>Memorial Day 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> AA</p>	<p>The Visitation 31 Of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>



June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>June Notes</p> <p>ASCENSION DAY (Thursday, 2nd ~ 6 p.m.) Solemn High Mass followed by Potluck Supper Healing Mass (14th, 5:30 p.m.) Contemplative Prayer Group (Tuesdays, 7 p.m.) Parkville Classics Presents <i>Musical Friends</i> (Saturday, 18th, 7:30 p.m.) PENTECOST (Sunday, 12th) TRINITY SUNDAY (Sunday, 19th) "Signature" Supper (Tuesday, 21st, 6 p.m.) Corpus Christi (Sunday, 26th) Vestry Meeting (Sunday, 19th, ~12:15 p.m., Rector's Office) Last Choir Rehearsals for summer (Wednesday, 22nd, 7 p.m.) Last Education Hour for Summer (Sunday, 26th, 9:45 a.m.)</p>					
			<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>6 p.m. Solemn High Mass Potluck Supper</p>	3	4
<p>Easter VII 5</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p>	6	7	8	9	10	<p>St. Barnabas 11 The Apostle</p> 
<p>Pentecost 12</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p>	13	14	15	16	17	<p>18</p>  <p>7:30 p.m. Parkville Classics "Musical Friends"</p>
<p>Trinity Sunday 19 Father's Day</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass 12:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting</p> 	20	21	22	23	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25
<p>Corpus Christi 26</p> <p>8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass</p> 	27	28	29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles	30		

A “Legacy Society” for Grace?

By ED KLEMONSKI

I recently had lunch with the Rector to discuss an interesting development at Saint John’s Episcopal Church in West Hartford — the creation of a group of current and former parishioners and friends who have remembered St. John’s in their will, trust agreement, life insurance, IRA or other related legal or financial instrument.

Known as “Saint John’s Episcopal Church 1841 Legacy Society” in recognition of the founding, in 1941, of their parish, the Society seeks to encourage and promote planned giving as a proper component of end-of-life arrangements. By including the church in any of the above listed instruments and advising the Planned Giving Committee or the Rector that one has done so, a person becomes a member of the Society. He or she does not have to reveal the size of their remembrance, and any amount will qualify.

Fr. Maxwell points out that the Book of Common Prayer has an admonition to plan for the “inevitable” and make a will. It’s on page 445 at the end of the service of “Thanksgiving for a Child.” The church also has long maintained files for different parishioners containing information regarding funeral plans and arrangements. As Fr. Max indicates, “It’s very helpful if people let me know in advance what they’d like for their funeral. It’s especially helpful to family members and those left behind who are both wanting to do what their loved one would want, and also dealing with their own grief.”

Of course, funeral plans are not the only thing the church office can keep files on. Fr. Max also told me, “Related to this, we would be happy to keep a list of emergency contacts in the church office. I’m thinking especially of our single parishioners who might find themselves in the hospital, or some other situation, in which they would like the church to notify people for them. It would be easy to do this if we had the names and numbers on file.”

At St. John’s, the Legacy Society is taking its first year to sign up “founding” members. Each person who is interested in the project gets the opportunity to discuss it with a member of the Planned Giving Committee or Clergy of the parish. They are asked if they have already remembered the church in their will or

revocable trust instrument, their qualified retirement plan or IRA, a life insurance policy, an irrevocable trust, a charitable remainder trust, or in any other way. Those that have not are asked whether they intend to do so. They also must acknowledge that their names may be revealed as a member of the Society for the purpose of recognition on a list of donors and to help encourage others to become members.

At Grace, the Vestry decided earlier this year to look into the creation of a similar Legacy Society. Jim Shafer, the Junior Warden, was authorized to write to me about the concept and ask me to meet with the Rector to discuss it further. I have been an attorney at law in Connecticut for many years, and a significant portion of my professional practice has involved wills, trusts, and probates. Jim asked me to make available my professional expertise to become “an informed resource” and for suggestions on how to proceed.

While neither the Rector nor anyone on the Vestry then knew it, I have myself remembered Grace Church in my own estate plan. I told the Rector I would be willing to work on the committee, and I thought this a splendid idea. Obviously, a start would be for others in our parish to help in this endeavor, and I have already begun to ask people to help. By this newsletter I am asking for further help in creating a suitable brochure, setting up a procedure for people’s questions to be answered, and for obtaining and distributing literature already available from the national church.

The Episcopal Church Foundation has 5 separate short brochures and 5 other detailed booklets available for purchase or for free download from the Internet. These materials may be found at the website, www.EpiscopalFoundation.org.

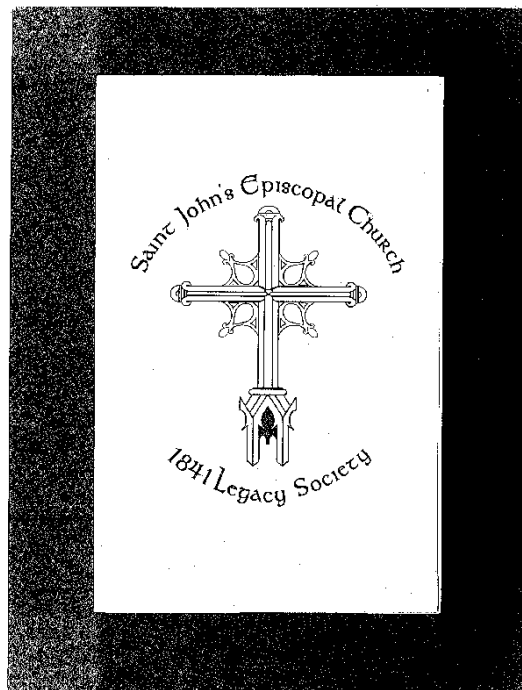
Longtime members of Grace are aware that there are two components to our parish “endowment.” One is a testamentary trust (that is, one created by will) and the other is a “parish” trust (created by the Vestry). While the amounts of money in each have fluctuated over the years, without these two funds providing substantial income every year, our church today would be a very different place, perhaps even non-existent.

When I became Senior Warden in 1990, I learned of the generosity of a then long-deceased member of the parish, George Wellman. He is the one who created the testamentary trust. It was then about half of our endowment. Administered now by Bank of America, the

Wellman Trust is subject to periodic review by the Hartford Probate Court and its principal can never be exhausted. Our other endowment component, the Parish Trust, is not subject to court review and its principal can be, and has from time to time been, invaded by the Vestry for both special projects and ordinary expenses. It is administered by Donations and Bequests for Church Purposes, a charitable entity created by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Both components have their proper place in the order of things.

I remember the late Sherri MacAaron, Parish Clerk when I first became Senior Warden, often admonishing the Vestry that we should try to raise money for operating expenses on our own and not just “leave it to George.” It makes me think that perhaps we could call our own Legacy Society the “Wellman Society” in honor and recognition of the man who for so many years after his death helped to support our parish.

So, what I propose for Grace Church is the “Wellman Society.” Knowing “George did it — you can, too!” can perhaps become an appropriate inspiration for the rest of us.

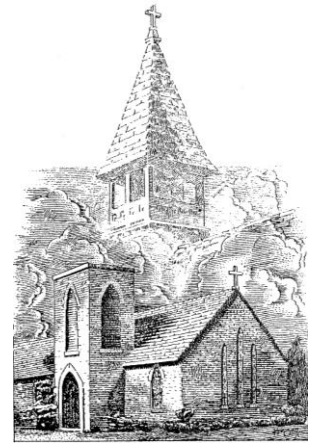


St. John's "Legacy Society" brochure (above) lists over 100 benefactors over the last 110 years by name and date.

Grace Abounding

By ELIZABETH MAC KIERNAN MIEL

Have you ever wondered why our parish should be called Grace? Some people think it's because we are located on Grace Street, but actually the church came first and the street was named later. [Editor's Note: Grace Street and Greenwood Street, which is at the western end of Grace Street, were named after the original owner of the land, Grace Greenwood.]



It might seem more appropriate to be called St Martin's, after our Patron, Martin of Tours, or perhaps something much more Anglo-Catholic like "Corpus Christi" or "Mary Queen of Heaven," but from the time we were founded as a chapel of Trinity Church until now Grace we were and Grace we remain.

The word Grace in the New Testament is almost always a translation of the Greek word $\chi\alpha\rho\iota\varsigma$ ("charis" in English translations) which the Greek Dictionary explains as having all these possible meanings:

1. Sweetness charm loveliness;
2. Goodwill, loving kindness, favor in general;
3. Kindness of a master toward a servant;
4. Kindness of God toward humans especially implying undeserved kindness freely given; and
5. Gratitude for kindness.

The concept of God's grace toward humans has been the focus of Christian theologians from the time of St Paul until now. Here are some quotes about Grace. Which of them resonates with your own idea of God's Grace or with your experience of Grace Church?

- "Nothing is more repugnant to capable, reasonable people than grace." -- John Wesley.
- "Grace fills empty spaces, but it can only enter where there is a void to receive it, and it is grace itself, which makes this void." --Simone Weil.
- "You are so weak: Give up to grace. The ocean takes care of each wave 'til it gets to shore. You need more help than you know." --Jalaluddin Rumi.

- “Grace is nothing else but a certain beginning of glory in us.” --St. Thomas Aquinas.
- “What is grace? I know until you ask me; when you ask me, I do not know.” --St Augustine of Hippo.
- “Experiencing the present purely is being empty and hollow; you catch grace as a man fills his cup under a waterfall.” --Annie Dillard.
- “The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.” --Frederick Buechner.
- “Grace is not a strange, magic substance which is subtly filtered into our souls to act as a kind of spiritual penicillin. Grace is unity, oneness within ourselves, oneness with God.” --Thomas Merton.

In *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned us about ‘cheap grace’: “Cheap Grace is the mortal enemy of our church” *Billige Gnade ist der Todfeind unserer Kirche*. And righteous people today are very fond of quoting Bonhoeffer urging us not to rely on the unearned Grace of God.

“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession . . . Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man’ will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.”

--Bonhoeffer *The Cost of Discipleship*, English translation by R H Fuller, 1948)

One hesitates to contradict a modern saint and martyr like Bonhoeffer, but I think he is mistaken about Grace. Discipleship may be costly. Jesus warns us to consider the cost before becoming his follower, and Bonhoeffer lost his life by following Christ. But Grace itself? Personally, I think that Grace is not cheap, and it is not expensive either. I think it is entirely free and ever abundant. We enjoy what the arch-puritan writer John Bunyan, author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, used as a title to his autobiography which he wrote while imprisoned for preaching unlawfully: *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*.

"If It's Not Baroque, Why Play It?"

2011 is the fifteenth year of "*Musical Friends*" performances!

Flutists **Leo Snow** and **Virginia Church** are, once again, joined by **Richard Kandetzki** on bassoon. **Nancy Curran** returns as harpsichordist, and **Carole Olefsky** as cellist.

Featured Baroque composers for the concert include
J.S. Bach, **G. P. Telemann** and **Joseph B. de Boismortier**.



Saturday, June 18th, 7:30 pm

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to Tori Burns, Elizabeth MacKiernan Miel, Fr. Richard Maxwell, Deacon Gary Mongillo, Sandra Morgan, Tom Phillips, Elaine Phillips, and James Shafer for their help and suggestions with this issue of "Grace Notes." Contributions from others are always welcome and may be sent at any time to klemonskie@aol.com. The Grace Notes Newsletter now takes a break for the summer. The next issue will cover Sept. ~ Oct. 2011.

EDWARD S. KLEMONSKI, Editor.



SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

By THOMAS A. PHILLIPS
Senior Warden

Here at Grace Church USA, life goes on in the same old way.

The Pantry, A Place of Grace, is very active, serving close to two hundred Parkville families three weeks a month. It takes a lot of work to stack, pack, and distribute the food. We have a cadre of dedicated volunteers who meet on Wednesday at about 3 p.m. in the Parish House to arrange the bread, sweets, and whatever produce Foodshare provides us for the week, as well as to pack some 200 bags of groceries. It's a busy time. Many hands make light work, and we are usually done by 5 p.m. People with pickup trucks are treasured!

The Deficit, ah yes, the Deficit!

First: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To the many people who rose to the challenge and contributed to meet the matching grant and also raised their annual pledge to the Church. The deficit has been reduced from \$46,000 to about \$9,000 as I type this. That is GREAT! Thank you!

The Deficit, ah yes, the Deficit!

It's still there — some \$9,000 or so. What does that suggest to you? I'm hoping that it stirs a fearsome desire to make a pledge if you haven't, raise your pledge if you haven't, contribute to reduce the deficit if you haven't. If you have done any or all of the aforementioned, don't rest on your laurels. Dig deeper. We can do this!

This week, while I was at the Wednesday packing session for the pantry, one of the clients came into the Parish House. He is wheelchair-bound and handed me a roll of quarters. I asked him what it was for, and he said, "You do so much for us, I've been saving these, and I want you to have them to help reduce the deficit."

The widow's mite is alive and well and living in Parkville!

JUNIOR WARDEN'S CORNER



By JAMES SHAFER
Junior Warden

The big news for this issue is that the Vestry has approved a new bathroom for the Rectory. The “fixes” which were recently undertaken just didn’t “take” in a property as old as the house at 42 Rumford. The symptoms of the current problems are leaks coming through the ceiling in the kitchen underneath the bathroom, requiring buckets to catch the water, as well as the shorting-out of light fixtures — not a good situation.

The contractor who was awarded the current job has been in business since 1957, and has successfully completed a renovation of a bathroom in the house next door to the Rectory. The cost delineated on the Proposal is \$10,390. The Vestry believes that this is a necessary expense to maintain properly our vested interest in this valuable real estate property located in West Hartford.

Other immediate items on the JW’s agenda include an ancillary plaque for the Memorial Garden. The current plaque is full. The JW has taken the current plaque to close to a dozen places, and no one is able to make another. Thanks to Elizabeth MacKiernan Miel’s research, we have a lead about an outfit in Kensington which we are hoping will be able to give the assistance we need. Stay tuned for details in the next issue.

The decorative hinge covers for the main red doors in the belfry entrance of the church are off the doors because it was noticed that some of the holding screws were systematically disappearing, one or two at a time. It seemed as though someone may have been anticipating making an easy job of removing the decorative hinges for profit purposes — that is to say, stealing. The plan is for the hinge covers to be refurbished and then re-attached in as secure a way as possible.

Please allow me to close with a personal note of thanks to everyone for the kind thoughts, prayers, and cards while I was in the midst of a major sinus infection. Thankfully, I am better, but those things do like to hang on.

May ~ June 2011 Issue

GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



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If you are receiving this newsletter in error or wish to be taken off the mailing list, please notify the Church office.

PARKVILLE CLASSICALS

All concerts are on Saturday evenings in the church. They are free and start at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. A reception in the Parish Hall to meet the musicians follows each concert.

JUNE 18, 2011 ~ **MUSICAL FRIENDS**