

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



Dear Grace/La Gracia,

I cannot tell you how excited I am to join you in the new year. Over the past few months, I've become acquainted with your search committee and more recently your vestry. They are amazing, and I commend you for their thorough discernment process.

I'd like to share a bit about me. My first ministry is my family, including my wife, the Rev. Lisa Graves, and our two daughters, Bella - a senior at West Virginia University and Kat - a freshman at Louisiana State University. And of course, our three canine sons, Uno, Tyler and Kipper.

I was an academic (MBA, Doctorate) business executive who became an Episcopal priest in 2008, having managed both large and small parishes over the past 12 years. My theology is simple - to follow Jesus' two commandments: loving God above all else and to love our neighbor. Everything else flows from these.

Grace/La Gracia is an amazing community with fantastic people and dynamic ministries. I have been called to support and love Grace/La Gracia, where it has been and where it wants to go in the future. Our journey together will be spiritual and life-giving.

I truly look forward to seeing you.

God Bless,

Fr. Chip
The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

Interim Pastor's Letter

Farewell from your Interim Pastor December, 2018

It was exactly one year ago that I wrote my first piece as your Interim Pastor, at the very beginning of our journey together. Although we shared a clear sense of where we wanted to be at the end of that journey, I'm not sure we could have put it into words.

But we now know that we are exactly where we had hoped to be, even as our paths diverge.

You have called a new Rector, a man with vision and energy who is deeply committed to your mission of community advocacy grounded in spiritual growth. I have accepted a call to be the Interim Priest at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, a congregation that is, like you, engaged in urban ministries and in building a multicultural congregation grounded in faith. It is located about five miles from where our daughter and son-in-law live, and we are excited at the prospect of living near them.



It has been a grace-filled year. I could not have imagined how difficult it would be to say goodbye— not because of regrets or wistfulness but because I feel so deeply connected to you and to this holy place. You welcomed me into your lives without skipping a beat, and together we have worked steadily to prepare for the new ministry that will begin in January. Your Search Committee

was exemplary in carefully following every step in the process of seeking a new priest, and your Wardens and Vestry have worked faithfully to complete unfinished projects and to lay the groundwork for the next stage of your journey. Fr. Adolfo has been an ideal colleague, open to new possibilities as he continues to lead La Gracia with vision and compassion, and La Gracia's warm acceptance of me—and my stumbling Spanish—has made my heart full. Peter Roberts has led the choir with insight and care, striking just the right balance between tradition and innovation, while Juan Carlos Abreu has become part of our team with seeming effortlessness. Your staff and ministry leaders have made the tumult of transition easy to navigate, and you are blessed with their leadership and guidance as they do the often invisible work of making it possible for all of you to serve, worship, and learn together.

In her memoir *Becoming*, Michelle Obama defines “becoming” in words that describe my own sense of this moment:

For me, becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end. . . .It's all a process, steps along a path. Becoming requires equal parts patience and rigor. Becoming is never giving up on the idea that there's more growing to be done. (p. 419)

I am grateful that the grace of this year will always fill my life as I continue “to reach continuously toward a better self.” And I wish you every blessing as you continue to grow in Grace, ever becoming what God has called you to be.

Judith+

Despedida de su Pastor Interino

Diciembre, 2018

Hace exactamente un año que escribí mi primer escrito como su Pastor Interino, al comienzo de nuestro viaje juntos. Aunque compartimos un sentido claro de dónde queríamos estar al final de ese viaje, no estoy segura de que pudiéramos haberlo expresado con palabras.

Pero ahora sabemos que estamos exactamente donde esperábamos estar, incluso cuando nuestros caminos divergen.

Ustedes han llamado a un nuevo Rector, un hombre con visión y energía que está profundamente comprometido con su misión de defensa comunitaria basada en el crecimiento espiritual. He aceptado un llamado para ser el Sacerdote Interino en la Iglesia Episcopal de San Mateo en Worcester, Massachusetts, una congregación que, como ustedes, participa en ministerios urbanos y en la construcción de una congregación multicultural basada en la fe. Se encuentra a unas cinco millas de donde vive nuestra hija y nuestro yerno, y estamos entusiasmados ante la perspectiva de vivir cerca de ellos.

Ha sido un año lleno de gracia. No podría haber imaginado lo difícil que sería decir adiós, no por arrepentimientos o tristezas, sino porque me siento profundamente conectada con ustedes y con este lugar sagrado. Ustedes me recibieron en sus vidas, y juntos hemos trabajado constantemente para prepararnos para el nuevo ministerio que comenzará en enero. Su Comité de Búsqueda fue ejemplar al seguir cuidadosamente cada paso en el proceso de búsqueda de un nuevo sacerdote, y sus Mayordomos y Junta han trabajado fielmente para completar proyectos sin terminar y sentar las bases para la siguiente etapa de su viaje. P. Adolfo ha sido un colega ideal, abierto a nuevas posibilidades a medida que continúa liderando a La Gracia con visión y compasión, y la cálida aceptación de La Gracia a mí persona, y de mi tambaleante español, ha llenado mi corazón. Peter Roberts ha dirigido el coro con perspicacia y cuidado, logrando el equilibrio perfecto entre tradición e innovación, mientras que Juan Carlos Abreu se ha convertido en parte de nuestro equipo aparentemente sin esfuerzo. Su personal y los líderes de su ministerio han hecho que el tumulto de la transición sea fácil de navegar, y ustedes están bendecidos con su liderazgo y orientación, ya que hacen el trabajo a menudo invisible de hacer posible que todos ustedes puedan servir, adorar y aprender juntos.



En sus memorias de *Becoming*, Michelle Obama define "llegar a ser" en palabras que describen mi propio sentido de este momento:

Para mí, Convertirme no se trata de llegar a un lugar o de lograr un objetivo determinado. En cambio, lo veo como un movimiento hacia adelante, un medio para evolucionar, una forma de

alcanzar continuamente un mejor yo. El viaje no termina. . . .Se trata de un proceso, pasos a lo largo de un camino. Convertirme requiere partes iguales de paciencia y rigor. Convertirme nunca es renunciar a la idea de que hay más crecimiento que lograr. (p. 419)

Estoy agradecida de que la gracia de este año siempre llenará mi vida mientras continúo "buscando continuamente un ser mejor". Y les deseo toda la bendición a medida que continúen creciendo en Gracia, convirtiéndose en lo que Dios les ha llamado a ser. Judith +

Senior Warden's Report

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season and weathering the brisk air. I wanted to take this opportunity to bring the parish up to date on all that is happening. Following are highlights:



contact her if you would like to assist in welcoming our new rector. Please continue to support Grace/LaGracia, Father Graves, and your Vestry.

The Rectory on North Street

Work on the rectory has started in preparation of our new Rector, Father Chip Graves. The drainage work has been completed and all the windows are in the process of being changed with energy efficient windows. Hopefully, the last step will be painting the rectory. Many thanks to the Vestry for moving the project forward and to Nate Hogan for acting as the project manager in restoring the rectory to a welcoming environment.

The Organ

We all appreciate the music that has been blessed to us by Peter Roberts and our magnificent organ. I would like to share some facts regarding the organ with you. The value of the organ is over

\$1,000,000. Bill Biles, who chairs the committee, continues to have studies done to properly prepare a plan of action on the renovation and maintenance of the organ. Many thanks to Eileen McClean for the fund raises she has successfully organized and implemented.

The Parish Elevator

In keeping with the philosophy of maintenance of our facility, commitment to our parishioners, community, and contracts with Lifting Up Westchester, we continue to research and seek funding alternatives to start the process of repairing of the elevator. The Cappelli organization is working with the Elevator Committee to arrive at an efficient solution.

Grace Church Documents

We have undertaken a summer project to correctly and efficiently codify as well as store Church documents. Spearheaded by Clyde Hicks, Irene Alves and Mary Baker, church documents date to the early 1800's are properly being restored and listed for future reference. Due to the age of many of the documents, this is truly a "white glove" affair. Maria Campos is also converting current contracts and documents to be properly stored and filed on the church server. Many thanks to all parishioners involved in this process of restoring our files. As a reminder, if you have any original documents, please return them to the church to either me or Maria Campos. We will make sure you have a copy, if you like.

As you can imagine, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. I assure you we are making every effort to move these projects along efficiently and prudently as possible. If you have any questions or wish more details, please feel free to contact me at any time. I am looking forward to a healthy, coming year. Please keep committee members and the Vestry in your prayers and continue to provide your positive support.

Thank you for your blessings,
Joseph C. Gallo
Senior Warden

Schedule for Advent and Christmas - 2018

Adult Spiritual Formation

During Advent we will continue our *Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life* that we shared on our Parish Day of Renewal on December 1st.

1. On the First Sunday of Advent (December 2nd), we will distribute an Advent Calendar offering a practice for each day of Advent. It will also be posted on our website.
2. Daily e-meditations will be sent out, Monday through Friday (December 3rd - 24th). Hard copies will be available in the church.
3. Wednesday evenings (December 5, 12, 19)

- a. **6:30 PM -7:30 PM** – Walk the Labyrinth in the Parish Hall
- b. **7:30PM - 9:00 PM** - Bible Study: Walking the Way of Love to become the Beloved Community

Jazz Vespers for Blue Christmas: 5: 00 PM Saturday December 8th

Jazz Vespers will be a service of prayer and meditation to observe Blue Christmas, a time when we acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. This time has been called the "long dark night of the soul" and "the winter of our discontent" in which memories of past experiences and the pain of our present situation can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, it may be Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we reflect on the complicated feelings that we share and offer them to God for healing and transformation. Together, we reassure each other of God's unconditional love. We find hope and comfort in knowing that we are not alone.

Grace Church welcomes the NYSB Quartet to perform for this service. Led by Alex Auld, who grew up at Grace Church, the musicians of the NYSB Quartet are members of Brooklyn's New York Salsa Band. They have individually performed throughout the United States and internationally, accompanying some of the top names in both jazz and Latin music.

A Free Will Offering will benefit the Grace Church Organ Fund



**Fiesta de La
Virgen de
Guadalupe –
8:30 PM
Tuesday,
December 11th**

This major annual celebration at Grace La Gracia Church is open. A procession begins at the Parish Hall at 8 pm, and the fiesta ends with prayers at midnight. Our

Lady of Guadalupe – also called Our Lady of the Americas—symbolizes the overcoming of tyranny and division through dignity, faithfulness, and non-violent resistance. Our fiesta is an expression of honor, devotion, and commitment to peace through honoring the dignity of every human being.

Advent Lessons and Carols: 4:00 PM Sunday December 16

Our St. Nicholas Choir, including children and youth from both Grace and La Gracia, will join the Grace Church Parish Choir and guest musicians for a service of prayer, readings, and choral music.

Las Posadas: December 14-22nd

This Latino observance has become an annual tradition at Grace La Gracia. A group gathers for prayers at private homes, symbolizing the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Everyone is invited to the observance at the Rectory on Friday, December 21st, at 7:30 PM and to the closing celebration in the Parish Hall on Saturday December 22nd 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to these last two celebrations.

Monday December 24: Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

2:00 pm Family Service with Christmas Pageant and Carols
7:00 pm La Gracia service of Santa Eucaristia
10: 00 pm Festival Service of Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 30th Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus (transferred)

Monday, December 31st 11:00 PM – Midnight – The Church will be open for Prayer and private devotions.

Sunday January 6th The Feast of the Epiphany/ Three Kings Sunday



**LIFTING UP
WESTCHESTER
HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS**

This is the season of giving. We prepare and encourage ourselves as well as those with whom we love to physically and emotionally ready our minds and hearts for Christmas. We become more conscience in the hustle and bustle of this season that many of our brothers and sisters (who we may not know) are not as fortunate. Here at Grace/La Gracia, we have the opportunity to provide something extra special for these families.

In the spirit of our Christian faith, we have the opportunity to provide families with the gift of a memorable Christmas meal. A total of 500 families served by *Lifting Up Westchester* will receive a grocery bag of non-perishable items. However, it does not contain perishable food such as fresh vegetables, fruit, and of course, a special dessert for the holiday.

We at Grace Church have traditionally shared a part of our riches with our brothers and sisters who are not as fortunate.

You can help! Provide a gift card in the amount of \$25 for each bag. Gift cards (from Stop & Shop, Shop-Rite, Target as well as generic ones) will be genuinely appreciated by these families. If you cannot get to one of the stores, a cash donation or a check of any amount made to "Lifting Up Westchester" to purchase gifts cards will buy gift cards.

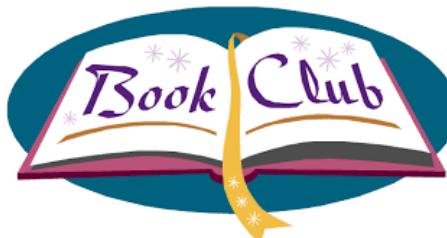
The collection will continue through Sunday, December 16, 2018, in the Parish Hall, after the 10 AM mass. Attend 8:00 AM or 12:30PM? You may leave your donation (marked to Linda Gallo's attention) in the collection basket.

If you have any questions, please speak with Linda Gallo.
Yours in kindness and love,

Linda Gallo

Grace Church Book Club Update

Join us the first Tuesday of Every Month



Join the Grace Church Book Club on this season's upcoming exciting book adventures as we explore the convergence of four seemingly unrelated lives—an eight-year-old Albanian immigrant, a wounded American GI in Iraq, a social worker living against the backdrop of the Las Vegas strip, and a middle-aged housewife whose marriage and son are both in trouble (**We Are Called to Rise, Dec 11**); follow a risky journey toward freedom of a slave with the dual role as the daughter of her owner and inherited by the slave owner's widow (**The Chariot on the Mountain, Jan 8**); examine the role of the U.S. criminal justice system in redesigning America's racial caste system (**The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, Feb 12**); weigh in on the moral dilemma of race, power, and privilege that come to play in an unexpected single event (**Small Great Things: A Novel, March 12**); ride the emotional and spiritual rollercoaster of a neurosurgeon as he transforms into a patient with stage IV lung cancer and confronts his own mortality (**When Breath Becomes Air, April parish-wide read**); travel decades—the 1950s to present—and distance—New York to Burma—to unravel the mystery behind an inspiring love story (**The Art of Hearing Heartbeats, May 14**); dive deep into the

souls of a newlywed couple who are ripped apart by unimaginable circumstances (**An American Marriage, June end-of-season** luncheon); and discover how the complexities inherent in our own lives shape our individual truths (**Flight Behavior: A Novel, summer read**). Interested in the Book Club? Contact Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

From George O'Hanlon

The Sunday school program is off to a brisk start. Under Donna Louis' leadership, our young parishioners from pre-K through high school have undertaken numerous activities in this still relatively young school year.



the following weeks for our Youth Education team. Our classes are structured based on grade in school, with classes for our Little Lambs, pre-K to K; our Primary class, first to third grade students; our Intermediate class for our fourth to sixth grade students; our Rite 13 class made up of 7th and 8th graders, and our Journey to Adulthood classes, made up of our high school

As is our custom, The Grace Church Sunday school program starts each year participating in the Blessings of the bookbags event sponsored by FX3 in early September. This year's event was as popular as ever, with our junior parishioners proudly sporting their book bags in front of the Congregation, as each was individually blessed.

From there, it was on to classes in



students. Christian education is the cornerstone for each class, with specific content established based on the grades of the students. But it is far from all work in these classes. For example, one of our most popular events is our annual bowling outing for our Rite 13 and J2A class members, and this year's October event was no exception, as bowling and good food were enjoyed by all. Also, if you happen by the upstairs classroom area, you will see the newly decorated hallway, and we look forward to crafts from our younger students to similarly adorn and beautify the classroom area. The Sunday school classes best reflected their talents with a presentation to Bishop Dietsche during his recent visit to our Parish.

Please also view our Sunday school bulletin boards in the main floor hallway, which is replete with wonderful pictures of activities, as well as information on the classes.



serving at our Holiday Grace Kitchen events, lay reading or participating in our children's Christmas program. Many of our students participate in multiple events, playing a key role in the Church service and service programs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE FROM THE INTERMEDIATE CLASS (4TH – 6TH GRADE)

Teachers: Michael Heffner and Cynthia Brown

We graduated a number of students to the next level last year. Our current numbers are lower than last year, so our students get the benefit of a higher student-to-teacher ratio (some weeks the teachers actually outnumber the students). We continue to structure our class time around the Virginia Theological Seminary curriculum (which has worked so well in the past). Reading out loud in preparation for participation in the Sunday service (as lay readers) is a core component of our work. Gaining a deeper understanding of Stewardship has been an added feature of our class work in 2018. The students will once again take an active role in this year's Christmas pageant (with key speaking parts). We thank the parents for getting the children to class on time (punctuality is always a factor given our limited time) – and welcome any thoughts/suggestions.



Submitted by Mary Baker

WALKING THE LABYRINTH: “PRAY WITHOUT CEASING”

Thanks to a donation from Maria Lewis, Grace La Gracia now has a portable labyrinth, which we can lay out on the floor of the Parish Hall, transforming that space into a meditation room. We will bless the labyrinth on the morning of our Parish Day of Renewal (Saturday December 1st), and it will be available all day for individual meditations. We will also set it up on Wednesday evenings in Advent at 6:30 p.m. (December 5, 12, & 19) for a time of meditation before Bible Study begins at 7:30. In the future, it can be used before meetings, or as part of a prayer group gathering, or as part of retreats that we host. It will be a tool for spiritual formation at Grace.

In his First Letter to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5, St. Paul encourages us to “pray without ceasing.” Walking the labyrinth while praying provides a vehicle for integrating our physical world with the inner world of spirit.



THE HISTORY OF The LABYRINTH

By Maria Lewis

The labyrinth is a divine imprint, found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world. By walking a replica of the Chartres labyrinth, laid in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral around 1220, we are rediscovering a long-forgotten mystical tradition that is being reborn. It was

walked as a pilgrimage and/or for repentance. But, in all, it was used as a vehicle to become closer to God. The center of the pattern of the labyrinth is your guide, your destination. As we rediscover a long-forgotten mystical tradition that is being reborn, let us look at guidelines of “walking the labyrinth.”

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

- . Come to the labyrinth in a contemplative way after removing shoes.
- . Walk with an open heart and a quiet mind.
- . There are 3 stages of your walk:
 - **RELEASING**- upon entering the labyrinth, let go of distractions, keeping an open heart and quiet mind and an EYE on the path
 - **RECEIVING** - when you reach the center, stay as long as you like- meditate/pray/commune/receive

- RETURNING - as you leave the center, with whatever received, follow the SAME PATH out of the center
- REMEMBER- the path is 2 ways-those going in will meet those coming out. You may “pass/step around” each other, preferably at the turns...do what feels natural.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE 242nd DIOCESAN CONVENTION

By Hillary Fleming

The Episcopal Diocese of New York kicked off its 242nd Annual Convention right here in White Plains on Friday, Nov. 9. Bishop Andrew Dietsche announced to the group that next year, the Convention will be here in Westchester again – at the Westchester Marriott on Tarrytown Road. Normally the Convention is held every other year at the Cathedral, but next year there will be a change in the routine. Attending the Convention on behalf of Grace Church this year were Fr. Adolfo Moronta, Daisy Calderon, Sorraya Sampson, as voting delegates, Hillary Fleming as non-voting observer and Sandy Gadsden-McAllister as a member of Diocesan Council.

The agenda for the opening day of the Convention included an orientation workshop for new comers. The Convention was officially called to order at 1:00pm and the first work session was a presentation by Rev. Canon Eric Law on the ***Kaleidoscope Program***. Canon Law is a member of the Diocese of Los Angeles, and created this program. However, it is so relevant that the Diocese of New York is supporting it throughout its parishes. ***Kaleidoscope*** provides a format to help with communication and bridging differences in a multi-cultural environment. The 4 quarters of a labyrinth are used to help communicate effectively by 1) Telling the Truth; 2) Proclaiming the Dream; 3) Practicing in the Way of Love; 4) Repairing the Breach. These



concepts can be accomplished by using the Six Holy Currencies outlined as part of Congregational Development & Stewardship. During all conversations, **RESPECT** Guidelines should be followed.

R – Take responsibility for what you say and feel without blaming others

E – Use empathetic listening

S – Be sensitive to differences in communication style

E – Examine your own assumptions and perspective

C – Keep Confidentiality

T – Trust ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong.

More information on the Kaleidoscope can be found on its website www.kscopeinstitute.org.

The second work session included a presentation by the Reparations Committee of *A New York Lamentation*, a play written by the Rev. Chuck Kramer and directed by Jeannine Otis.

Performances of this play have been done at several locations throughout the diocese. At last year's Diocesan Convention, it was voted that 2018 would be a year of Lamentation, where we as a church would concentrate on the "ongoing" study of our Diocese and the history of its involvement in slavery in its old and new incarnations.

The first day of Convention was closed out with a special Worship, *A Liturgy for Listening and Lamentation*. The liturgy was a natural extension of the play and acknowledgement of survivors of the #MeToo movement. At this year's General Convention, the Bishops agreed to acknowledge individuals that were survivors of sexual harassment or abuse and begin a healing process. The #EDNYMeToo Task Force took the service celebrated at General Convention and adapted it for Diocesan Convention. The Liturgy was quite moving as individuals told the stories of individuals in the diocese who had been abused. We recited a Litany of Lament that ended with the following collect:

Loving and Merciful God, accept our lament and repentance, pour your grace upon those who suffer from the consequences of sin and guide our footsteps upon the path of your grace and forgiveness; this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen

The second day of the Convention started with opening statements by the Convention Secretary, followed by an address by Bishop Dietsche that began with topics relating to the business of the day and a recap of the General Convention in Austin. He then shifted gears and his address transformed into a powerful, emotional reminder of our obligations as Christians in this time of such secular divisions. It was very moving and even brought the Bishop to tears as he finished his words.

There were solemn topics covered, like the recent happenings at St. Martin's in Harlem and the painful legacy of Bishop Paul Moore. There was joyful news like the announcement about the return of the Diocese of Cuba, now joining us in Province II, the acknowledgement of the new Congregation of South India, located in Scarborough, NY, and the welcome extended to several priests and deacons who have joined the Diocese this year. Several speakers gave reports on

various topics including the Cathedral, the Global Women's Fund, Episcopal Charities, Campus Ministries, and the Young Adult Network.

Bishop Allen Shin and Bishop Mary Glasspool gave reports as well. Bishop Shin discussed several ministries that are focused on growth and development of congregations, youth leadership and cultural diversity. The Episcopal Asian Supper Table, a new ministry started last year, is growing and a new focus will be on capturing the stories of Asian Episcopalians. Bishop Glasspool created a thoughtful and memorable metaphor – using the story of Humpty Dumpty to illustrate the brokenness of humankind and how only our Creator has the ability to “put us back together again”.

Personally, a few things stood out for me as a first time attendee: the wealth of ministries and outreach that the Diocese is involved in; the beauty of “seeing” the Gospel as it is signed instead of read aloud; and the feeling of being a part of a huge worship family. We hope that many of our Grace parishioners take an opportunity to explore material from this Convention once it is posted to the Diocesan website.

A Talk Given at a *Celebration of Women's Day*

St. Francis and St. Martha Episcopal Church
October 21, 2018

By Andrea Hamilton-Singh

Today is a very special day, as we are celebrating women. Now I may be a stranger to some of you, but the one thing I am sure we share in common, aside from our love for the Lord, is that our lives have been influenced by at least one woman.

It may have been our mother, grandmother, aunt, godmother, sister, cousin, colleague, mentor, teacher or a stranger who was brave enough to make herself vulnerable and share an experience. We have all had the good fortune of having a woman influence some or all aspects of our lives. As we celebrate Women's Day, we celebrate the accomplishments and contributions made by Women.

We are truly faithful servants, and I use the word servant in the most loving and endearing way. We are nurturers, comforters, nurses, doctors, engineers, teachers, wives and mothers. We are not just responsible for ourselves but somehow for everyone else as well.

Do you ever just think to yourself what it would be like to take off and just be...

Yeah, right! As soon as you had that thought, it was drowned out by someone else's need. But to be needed is a blessing and the one thing we need is the Lord.

The Scriptures speak to the presence of the Lord. In a similar vein, let's talk about the presence of a woman. Let's acknowledge the gifts unique to women, specifically women who are grounded in their faith. There is a spiritual strength, courage, and discernment available to most praying people, but for women it has been demonstrated as having the ability to stand up without saying a word, or sharing the story of a journey and certainly a testimony where you knew that the only way you made it was through God's Grace.

Making a direct reference to today's Scriptures, the theme presented to us has been, *Where are you Lord?* How many times have we prayed for something and felt like there was nothing happening. We serve an AMAZING God. A God that sees, hears and knows our trials and challenges. We serve a God who will guide, protect and direct all according to HIS will.

STEWARDSHIP

*MAY THE God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing
So that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)*

The stewardship season for 2019 began at Grace/LaGracia Church on October 4th, 2018 with Mother Judith's letter on Stewardship. Her letter spoke about how all of our journeys begin with hope. Of course, hope takes many different forms. She reminded us that everyone who comes through our doors brings hope. What brings you hope?



On each Sunday in November one or more of our parishioners will give a talk about how Grace/LaGracia Church has brought them hope. Our speakers include: Brian Owens on November 4th; Nathaniel Graves on November 11th; Michael and James Heffner on November 18th and Daisy Calderon on November 25th. I hope you have the opportunity to hear each one of them. Each has a different message to share.

This year so many parishioners have expressed a renewed feeling of hope. Perhaps this is in part due to their hope that we will soon be calling a new rector. But as Mother Judith reminded us: hope is more than optimism; it is a spiritual gift. This spiritual gift gives us an opportunity to open our hearts and decide what we want to do with the gifts that God has given us. God has given us our beautiful church with its refinished stained glass windows blessed by Bishop Dietsche; He has given us the chance to work with and help others through pastoral

care and our connections with Lifting Up Westchester; He has given us the opportunity to make real human connections with people of different races, cultures and backgrounds. We now have the opportunity to share with others what he has given to us.

November 18th is Pledge Sunday. As you think about making your pledge of time and talent I hope you will think about how much good you can do for people in the community and for Grace//LaGracia Church. As you think about your financial pledge please consider how much God has given to us and consider proportionate giving- a true share of the finances that God has allowed us to personally accumulate.

Charlotte Roberson, Stewardship Chairperson

MAYORDOMIA

“Que Dios, que da esperanza, los llene de alegría y paz a ustedes que tienen fe en él, y les dé abundante esperanza por el poder del Espíritu Santo.” Romanos 15:13

La temporada de mayordomía para 2019 comenzó en la Iglesia Grace / LaGracia el 4 de octubre de 2018 con la carta de la Madre Judith sobre la Corresponsabilidad. Su carta hablaba sobre cómo todos nuestros viajes comienzan con esperanza. Por supuesto, la esperanza toma muchas formas diferentes. Ella nos recordó que todos los que entran por nuestras puertas traen esperanza. ¿Qué te trae esperanza?

Cada domingo de noviembre, uno o más de nuestros feligreses darán una charla sobre cómo la Iglesia Grace / LaGracia les ha dado esperanza. Nuestros oradores incluyen: Brian Owens el 4 de noviembre; Nathaniel Graves el 11 de noviembre; Michael y James Heffner el 18 de noviembre y Daisy Calderon el 25 de noviembre. Espero que tengas la oportunidad de escuchar a cada uno de ellos. Cada uno tiene un mensaje diferente para compartir.

Este año tantos feligreses han expresado un renovado sentimiento de esperanza. Quizás esto se deba en parte a su esperanza de que pronto llamaremos a un nuevo Rector. Pero como la Madre Judith nos recordó: la esperanza es más que optimismo; Es un don espiritual. Este don espiritual nos da la oportunidad de abrir nuestros corazones y decidir qué queremos hacer con los dones que Dios nos ha dado.

Dios nos ha dado nuestra hermosa iglesia con sus vitrales restaurados bendecidos por el Obispo Dietsche; Él nos ha dado la oportunidad de trabajar y ayudar a otros a través del cuidado pastoral y nuestras conexiones con Lifting Up Westchester; Nos ha brindado la oportunidad de establecer conexiones humanas reales con personas de diferentes razas, culturas y orígenes. Ahora tenemos la oportunidad de compartir con otros lo que él nos ha dado.



El 18 de noviembre es domingo de Promesa. Cuando piense en hacer su promesa de tiempo y talento, espero que piense en cuánto puede hacer por la gente de la comunidad y por la Iglesia Grace // La Gracia. Cuando piense en su compromiso financiero, considere cuánto Dios nos ha dado y considere dar de manera proporcional, una parte verdadera de las finanzas que Dios nos ha permitido acumular personalmente.

Charlotte Roberson, Encargada de Mayordomía

A DAILY INSPIRATION

Read and reflect on 1 Thessalonians 1:3

May I live today so that I am remembered before our God and Father for my:

WORK -- produced by faith

LABOR – prompted by love

ENDURANCE -- inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

OOPS! CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say ‘Hell’ to someone who doesn’t care much about you.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

REMEMBERING CORRIE TEN BOON (1892-1983)

For many past issues, we have published the inspirational words of the world-famous Dutch Christian Corrie Ten Boon. She was a godly, soul-rich individual who has left us a legacy of thoughtful and inspiring words. Her deep wisdom came with the cost of journeying through great pain in this life as she endured Nazi repression and a prison camp, yet many of us have gleaned amazing nuggets of truth from her experiences. That is evidence that God still uses all we walk through in this world for greater purposes and good, more than we could possibly ever imagine.

Certain themes run through her greatest quotes over and over again – truths we need reminding of in all we face today:

FORGIVE

LOVE

TRUST GOD

DON'T WORRY

PRAY

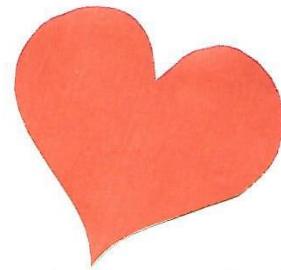
BE PRISONERS OF HOPE

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

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO CELEBRATE LOVE

Although we are now getting ready for the Christmas holidays, before you know it, another wonderful holiday comes along in the month of February. We all have a special fondness for February 14th, Valentine's Day, and the celebration of love. Since our next Angelus comes out after that day has passed, we have included this now. After all, love is a central message of our faith. It is always good to be reminded of love's importance. Here are some tips that we can ponder to help us learn more positive ways to become more loving in our behavior.

SO, HERE'S TO LOVE!



ACTION VALENTINES

We think primarily of love as an emotion, or how we feel about someone. But the Bible teaches us that, for Christians, love is an action verb. In other words, we should show our feelings by our actions. Take time to re-read I Corinthians, Chapter 13.

As an action, love can demonstrate our *feelings* of love in the five love languages.

The Five Love Languages

Love Language #1 – Words of Affirmation

Compliments, words of encouragement, and requests rather than demands all affirm the self-worth of the person you love. They create intimacy, heal wounds, and bring out the full potential of those we love.

Love Language #2 – Quality Time

Spending quality time together through sharing, listening, and participating in joint meaningful activities communicates that we truly care for and enjoy others.

Love Language #3 – Gifts

Gifts are visual symbols of love, whether they are items you purchased or made, or are merely your own presence made available to those we love. Gifts demonstrate that you care, and they represent the value of the relationship.

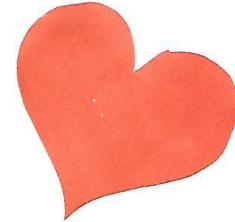
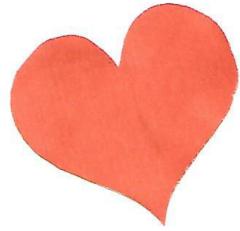
Love Language #4 – Acts of Service

Doing things for others is a powerful witness of our feelings. Acts of service should never be coerced but should be freely given and received, and completed as requested.

Love Language #5 – Physical Touch

Physical touch, as a gesture of love, reaches to the depths of our being. As a love language, it is a powerful form of communication from the smallest touch on the shoulder to the most passionate kiss.

By Gary Chapman



What is Love??

As verbalized by 4-8 year olds

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs. Chrissy - age 6

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. Terri - age 4

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. Bobby - age 7

Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day. Noelle - age 7

Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well. Tommy - age 6

Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken. Elaine - age 5

My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night. Clare - age 6

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth. Billy - age 4

Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay. Danny - age 7

There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them. Jenny - age 8

Bishop Dietsche's Visitation



Rest in Peace



Edwin N. Preiser

January 6, 1922- October 21 2018



The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH