

## Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



### Interim Pastor's Letter

*See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]*

Over the Labor Day weekend we visited the American Museum of Natural History in New York City for the first time since my daughter was a child. The world has changed a great deal in those twenty years, of course. Some of those changes were obvious—in exhibits and films reflecting recent advances in our knowledge of space and the oceans, for example—and some were subtle – dinosaur skeletons have been adjusted to reflect new knowledge of their anatomy. I was filled with wonder at both the artistry of the exhibits and the spectacular intricacy and complexity of our natural world.



Science and faith call us to keep in mind both the big picture – the cosmic scope of our lives—and the tiny details—the dark matter—that we cannot see. There is much that we can learn and much that we cannot know. Each day is at once a fleeting gift and a lifetime. Our lives are but instants in cosmic time and yet bring about unforeseen long-lasting changes. Several times every



day each of us chooses to open our eyes or to close them, to welcome what's new or to reject it, to act in hope or in fear.

We are beginning a busy season at Grace La Gracia. Your Search Committee and Vestry will be interviewing candidates to be your next Rector. Our First Saturdays at Grace will welcome new groups into our sanctuary (Blessing of the Animals in the front yard on October 6<sup>th</sup>, a performance of Mozart's Requiem on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to benefit the Organ Fund, and our Parish Retreat on December 1<sup>st</sup>). We will welcome Bishop Dietsche on October 28<sup>th</sup>, for Confirmation, Affirmation of Baptismal Vows, and blessing of our stained-glass windows. La Gracia will host a Latin Fiesta on September 15<sup>th</sup> and the annual Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Our Grace and La Gracia youth will join together for social events, faith formation, and community service. We will be a site for the Urban League Voter Registration Drive on September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>, and we will host Grace's Kitchen on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Our planning requires both attention to detail and mindfulness of our larger purpose. God is creating something new through us.

Let us rely on the "double vision" that is the gift of our faith and our intellect. Our life together is fleeting, our bonds eternal; our ministry is modest and cosmic. Every day I remember the words of Bishop George Councill, who ordained me:

*Behold God,  
Beholding you,  
And smiling.*

**In Christ,  
Judith+**

### **Carta del Pastor Interino**

*Mira, ¡estoy haciendo algo nuevo!  
Ahora brota; ¿No lo percibes?  
Estoy haciendo un camino en el desierto y arroyos en la tierra estéril. [Isaías 43:19]*

Durante el fin de semana del Día del Trabajo visitamos el Museo Americano de Historia Natural en la ciudad de Nueva York por primera vez desde que mi hija era una niña. El mundo ha cambiado mucho en estos veinte años, por supuesto. Algunos de esos cambios fueron obvios - por ejemplo en exhibiciones y películas que reflejan avances recientes en nuestro conocimiento del espacio y los océanos, - y algunos fueron sutiles: los esqueletos de los dinosaurios se han ajustado para reflejar el nuevo conocimiento de su anatomía. Me sorprendió tanto por el arte de las exhibiciones como por la espectacular complejidad de nuestro mundo natural.

La ciencia y la fe nos llaman a tener en cuenta tanto el panorama general -el alcance cósmico de nuestras vidas- como los pequeños detalles -la materia oscura- que no podemos ver. Hay mucho que podemos aprender y mucho que no podemos saber. Cada día es a la vez un regalo efímero y una vida. Nuestras vidas no son más que instantes en el tiempo cósmico y, sin embargo, provocan cambios que quizás nunca veamos. Varias veces al día, cada uno de nosotros elige abrir nuestros ojos o cerrarlos, dar la bienvenida a lo nuevo o rechazarlo, actuar con esperanza o miedo.

Estamos comenzando una temporada ocupada en Grace/ La Gracia. Su Comité de Búsqueda y Junta Parroquial entrevistarán a los candidatos para ser su próximo Rector. El servicio de Nuestros Primeros Sábados de cada mes recibirán a nuevos grupos en nuestro santuario (Bendición de los animales en el patio el 6 de octubre, una actuación del Réquiem de Mozart el 3 de noviembre para beneficiar el Fondo del órgano y nuestro Retiro parroquial el 1 de diciembre). Daremos la bienvenida al Obispo Dietsche el 28 de octubre, para Confirmación, Afirmación de Votos Bautismales, y bendición de nuestras ventanas de vitrales. La Gracia será sede de una Fiesta Latina el 15 de septiembre y la celebración anual de la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el 11 de diciembre.

Nuestros jóvenes de Grace y La Gracia se unirán para eventos sociales, formación de fe y servicio comunitario. Seremos sede de un lugar para la Campaña de Registro de Votantes de la Liga Urbana el 21 de septiembre y el 7 de octubre, y seremos anfitriones de Grace's Kitchen el 8 de octubre. Nuestra planificación requiere tanta atención a los detalles y atención de nuestro mayor propósito. Dios está creando algo nuevo a través de nosotros.

Confiemos en la "doble visión" que es el regalo de nuestra fe y nuestro intelecto. Nuestra vida juntos es efímera, nuestros lazos son eternos; nuestro ministerio es modesto y cósmico. Todos los días recuerdo las palabras del obispo George Councill, quien me ordenó:

*Mirad a Dios,  
Vientote a ti  
Y sonriendo.*

*En Cristo,  
Judith+*

---

## **Senior Warden's Report**

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer season and stayed dry. I wanted to take this opportunity to bring the parish up to date on all that is happening. Throughout the summer, the Vestry and Search Committee have been hard at work. Following are highlights:

### **Search Committee**

The Search Committee charged with finding a new rector has been installed and diligently following the process defined by the Diocese. Carlos Munoz, Linda Gallo, Stuart Madden, Daisy Calderon, Andrea Hamilton, Arlene Grant, and Charlotte Roberson constitute the committee, guided by Canon Tammearu, Diocesan Canon for Transition Ministry. The process of gathering candidates and initial interviews has been completed and they have embarked on doing site visits. It is my understanding that they are on target with their initial schedule.

### **The Rectory on North Street**

The Vestry has approved the financing of desperately needed repairs of the rectory. The basement has leaks near the electric service; the windows are the original windows. Many windows have broken glass, are not functioning, and extremely inefficient, causing high utility bills. We have scheduled the replacement of windows and repair of the leaks in the basement. The Vestry has

targeted the work to be completed by the time a new rector begins. 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 upon us by Peter Roberts and our magnificent organ. If you are not aware of the facts, I would like to share this information with you. The value of the organ has been placed at over \$ 1,000,000. The Vestry wishes to protect and maintain this valuable asset of Grace Church and has decided to fund greatly needed repairs and institute a maintenance program to protect our asset. Initial funding for this project was initiated by a concert sponsored by Eileen McClean. William Biles has undertaken the job of monitoring the maintenance program designed and being implemented by a highly reputable company. This fall, we will host 3 events to benefit the Organ Fund. Thanks to Eileen McClean and Barbara Biles for their work in organizing these events in collaboration with Downtown Music.

### **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 repairing of the elevator. This project has multiple facets and intricacies that need to be coordinated. The Vestry has appointed a committee to research the alternatives and processes. The committee members (Michael Heffner, Walter Simon, Linda Gallo, and Carlos Munoz) are spearheading research to resolve and complete this project prior to a new rector's arrival.

### **Grace Church Documents**

We have undertaken a summer project to correctly and efficiently codify and store Church documents. Spearheaded by Clyde Hicks, Irene Alves and Mary Baker, church documents which date to the early 1800's are being restored and catalogued for future reference. Due to the age of many of the documents, this is truly a "white glove" affair. Maria Campos is also ensuring that current contracts and documents are securely 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 I hope 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 as 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 the 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**

---

## Book Club Update

The Book Club celebrated the end of another great season while reviewing **My Name is Lucy Barton** over lunch at Via Garibaldi in White Plains. We'll resume our monthly meetings in September with a discussion of our summer read, **Behold the Dreamers** by Imbolo Mbue, and deciding this season's selections.

Interested in joining the Book Club?

Contact **Karen Odom** ([karenodom@yahoo.com](mailto:karenodom@yahoo.com))



---

## STEWARDSHIP

The members of the Stewardship Committee hope that you had a very enjoyable summer. Did you go on vacation? Did your children go to summer camp? Did you have the opportunity to see family and friends? Did you and/or your children have the opportunity to give of your time and talent to those who are less fortunate? Have you had the opportunity to check your records and make sure you have given three quarters of the money that you pledged for 2018?

Let us be mindful that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. Wealth comes from the Lord. When we give of our treasure to the church we are putting God first in our lives. In November, as we prepare for a new Rector for Grace/ La Gracia Church, we will begin our 2019 Stewardship campaign. We want to reverence the Lord; ask him for guidance; trust him; and plan our budget with faith in mind.

**Charlotte Roberson**  
**Stewardship Chair**

## MAYORDOMIA

Los miembros del Comité de Mayordomía esperan que hayan tenido un divertido verano. ¿Te fuiste de vacaciones? ¿Tus hijos fueron al campamento de verano? ¿Tuviste la oportunidad de ver a familiares y amigos? ¿Usted y / o sus hijos tuvieron la oportunidad de dar su tiempo y talento a

los menos afortunados? ¿Ha tenido la oportunidad de verificar sus registros y asegurarse de haber dado tres cuartas partes del dinero que prometió para 2018?

Seamos conscientes de que el Señor ama a un dador alegre. La riqueza proviene del Señor. Cuando entregamos nuestro tesoro a la iglesia, estamos poniendo a Dios primero en nuestras vidas.

En noviembre, mientras nos preparamos para un nuevo Rector para Grace / La Gracia, comenzaremos nuestra campaña de Mayordomía 2019. Queremos venerar al Señor; pedirle orientación; confía en él; y planificar nuestro presupuesto con fe en mente.

**Charlotte Roberson**  
**Encargada de Mayordomía.**

---

## Conferencia Nuevo Amanecer

**Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

Cada dos años, la oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Iglesia Episcopal ofrece la Conferencia de Nuevo Amanecer para aquellos que están trabajando en el Ministerio Latino, así como también para aquellos que están interesados en involucrarse. Este año, la conferencia bianual se realizó del 27 de agosto al 30 de agosto con la asistencia de más de 400 personas provenientes de diferentes estados y de varios países de América Latina como: Ecuador, Colombia, Cuba y República Dominicana. Grace / La Gracia estuvo representada por Daisy Calderon, Lila Arroyo, Paz Torres, Matilde Lazcano, Cecilia Peagler, Henry Chalco y el Reverendo Adolfo Moronta. El tema del evento fue: "Construimos, equipamos e inspiramos", que sigue la visión del Movimiento de Jesús. La conferencia se ofreció en forma bilingüe a través de la interpretación simultánea.

La riqueza de Nuevo Amanecer proviene de reunir a muchos líderes dinámicos ordenados y laicos de Ministerios Latinos en un lugar donde pueden compartir sus experiencias, aprender nuevas cosas que pueden implementar en sus congregaciones / iglesias locales, mientras se divierten al mismo tiempo como una gran comunidad. Otro componente principal de la conferencia son los talleres que se ofrecen, que brindan capacitación adicional a aquellos involucrados en el ministerio latino. Este año, entre algunos de los talleres que estuvieron disponibles para todos los participantes, se encuentran: El Libro de Oración Común y la Liturgia Anglicana Latinoamericana, Las redes sociales como herramientas para el evangelismo, Mega-Tendencias impactando el Ministerio Latino Tradicional, Liderazgo durante la adversidad: Cómo Manejar tiempos de crisis, Entendiendo los elementos fundamentales del marketing y las comunicaciones para su ministerio, recursos en español para inspirar a los discípulos y capacitar a los evangelistas, y evangelismo.

Uno de los énfasis que se hizo durante el evento fue que no deberíamos pensar en el ministerio latino como algo que solo se hace en español porque hoy el Ministerio Latino está compuesto no solo por latinos de primera generación (para quienes el español es el idioma principal), sino también de latinos de segunda y tercera generación que son principalmente hablantes de inglés. Por lo tanto, el futuro cercano del Ministerio Latino será bilingüe, y los servicios serán una mezcla de español e inglés (algunas partes serán en español y otras en inglés). Este importante cambio tendrá que suceder ya que debemos prestar mucha atención a los jóvenes latinos también llamados Milenials que nacieron después de 1984, y que al mismo tiempo son el futuro de este ministerio.

De acuerdo con los oradores de este evento, otro enfoque principal que las congregaciones latinas deben tener es en las redes sociales. Se dijo que la tecnología es sinónimo del siglo XXI y que hoy en día uno de los principales lugares donde las personas buscan encontrar una iglesia son los medios de comunicación social. Se estableció que un buen uso de las redes sociales habla sobre la vitalidad de una congregación y ayuda a establecer una relación a través de Internet con los amigos de la página web de la congregación.



Durante los 4 días, se destacó la importancia del lema de nuestra iglesia: "La Iglesia Episcopal da la bienvenida a todos". Se observó que como iglesia y parte del Movimiento de Jesús, aceptamos y damos la bienvenida a todas las personas. No discriminamos a nadie ni a ningún grupo por ningún motivo. Además, se exhortó a los participantes de Grace / La Gracia a descubrir que, de muchas maneras, nuestra parroquia está liderando el camino y ha tomado medidas que muchas otras parroquias simplemente están contemplando.

El próximo "Nuevo Amanecer" será en 2020. A medida que el Espíritu Santo continúe trabajando en nosotros y en la iglesia, debemos estar abiertos a sus diferentes manifestaciones y a la era de cambio hacia la cual Él nos dirige. Ahora más que nunca es importante que Grace / La Gracia continúe unida.

Todos somos parte importante del cuerpo de Cristo tal como se menciona en Efesios 4: 5-7. "Hay un solo Señor, una sola fe, un solo bautismo; hay un Dios y Padre de todas las personas, que es el Señor de todos, obra por todos y está en todos".

## Nuevo Amanecer Conference

### Rev. Adolfo Moronta



Every two years the office of the Latino/ Hispanic Ministry of the Episcopal Church offers the Nuevo Amanecer Conference for those who are working in Latino Ministry as well as for those who are interested in becoming involved. This year the biannual conference was held from August 27 through August 30 with the attendance of more than 400 who came from different states and from several Latin American countries such as: Ecuador, Colombia,

Cuba, and Dominican Republic. Grace / La Gracia was represented by Daisy Calderon, Lila Arroyo, Paz Torres, Matilde Lazcano, Cecilia Peagler, Henry Chalco and Rev. Adolfo Moronta. The theme for the event was: "We Build, Equip, and Inspire," which follows the vision of the Jesus Movement. The conference was offered bilingually through simultaneous interpretation.

The richness of Nuevo Amanecer comes from bringing together many successful lay and ordained dynamic leaders from Latino Ministries in one place where they can share their experiences, learn new things that they can implement in their local congregations/churches, while at the same time having fun as a community. Another main constituent of the conference is the workshops that are offered, which provide additional training to those involved in Latino ministry. This year among some of the workshops that were available to all participants were: The Book of Common Prayer and the Latin American Anglican Liturgy, eFormation: Social Media as Tools for Evangelism, Mega-Trends Impacting Traditional Latino Ministry, Leadership during Adversity: How to Handle Times of Crisis, Understanding the Fundamental Elements of Marketing & Communications for your Ministry, Spanish Resources to Inspire Disciples and Empower Evangelists, and Evangelism.



One of the emphases made during the event was that we should not think of Latino ministry as something that is only done in Spanish because today the Latino Ministry is composed not only of first generation Latinos (for whom Spanish is the main language), but also of second and third generation Latinos who are mainly English speakers. Therefore, the near future of the Latino Ministry will be bilingual, and the services will be a mix of Spanish and English (some parts will be in Spanish and others in English). This important change will have to happen since we need to pay close attention to the young Latinos who were born after 1984, and who at the same time are the future of this ministry.

According to the speakers at this event, another main focus that the Latino congregations need to have is on Social Media. It was said that technology is synonymous with the 21st century and today one of the main places where people look to find a church are the means of social communication. It was established that a good use of social networks speaks about the vitality of a congregation and helps establish a relationship through the Internet with friends of the congregation's website.

Throughout the 4 days the importance of the slogan of our church: "The Episcopal Church welcomes all" was highlighted. It was noted that as a church and part of the Jesus Movement we accept and welcome all people. We do not discriminate against anyone or any group for any reason. Furthermore, the participants from Grace/La Gracia were encouraged to discover that in many ways our parish is leading the way and has taken steps that many other parishes are just contemplating.

The next "Nuevo Amanecer" will be in 2020. As the Holy Spirit continues to work in us and in the church, we need to be open to His different manifestations and to the era of change toward which He leads us. Now more than ever it is important that Grace/ La Gracia continues to come together as one.

We are all an important part of Christ body just as is noted in Ephesians 4:5-7 *There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all.* [Good News Translation (GNT)]

---

## 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**



At Grace we strive to provide a safe, caring community where children know they are honored and welcomed, a place where they will be formed into Christians willing to share the gifts God has given them with the world they live in.

Our program is based on a holistic teaching approach comprised of faith instruction, involvement in the life of the church, service to the community and fellowship. We accomplish this through individual classroom experiences and whole group activities. We encourage our youth to be fully active members at Grace and they continue their stewardship as acolytes, lay readers, ushers, St. Nicholas Choir members, coffee hour hosts, soup kitchen volunteers and students.

Our Sunday School classes, for Pre-K (age 4) through Grade 6, are divided into our Little Lambs, Primary and Intermediate groups. Classes take place during the beginning of the 10am service and classes end in time for the children and teachers to come down to service and participate in the Eucharist. We follow the Virginia Theological Seminary curriculum comprised of a 3-year cycle of lessons known as the Cross, Chalice or Shell Year. Each year's lessons focus on a specific theme and always include units on the Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments, the Church and major events of the Church Year. In 2018-2019 we will be studying the Cross Year, which focuses on the theme of Worship.

Our young adult youth members in grades 7-12 are all part of the Journey to Adulthood program whose curriculum derives from Leader Resources. We divide up these youth further for developmentally appropriate faith instruction into our Rite 13 group for grades 7 and 8 and our J2A group for grades 9-12. The curriculum is comprised of thematic lessons designed to build self-esteem in the context of the Christian Community.

After a relaxing summer break our Grace volunteer teachers look forward to an exciting year of Youth Christian Education working with our youngest parishioners for our 2018-2019 school year. We continue to look at ways to revitalize, reorganize and grow our programs to better meet the needs of our students. This is a cooperative task. If this is your calling, please contact our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Donna Louis by leaving a message in the church office. Please join us!

Submitted by: **Donna Louis, Youth Ministry Coordinator**

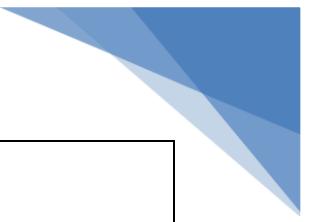
**SUNDAY, 10:00am – 11:00am**

**\*\*\* *IMPORTANT TIME CHANGE: Rite 13 & J2A will also meet at 10:00am* \*\*\***

**Pre-K (age 4) to Grade 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms**  
**Rite 13 (Grades 7-8) – 1<sup>st</sup> floor Library**  
**J2A (Grades 9-12) – 1<sup>st</sup> floor Parlor**

**2018**

September 2		Labor Day Weekend – Enjoy!
September 3		Grace's Kitchen Labor Day BBQ hosts Intermediate (gr. 4-6), Rite 13 & J2A
September 9	10:00 AM	Bookbag Blessing sponsored by Family, Faith & Fellowship (FX3)
	11:30 AM	Sunday School, Rite 13, J2A Registration
September 16	<b><u>11:00 AM</u></b>	Bilingual Family Service - ALL in Church
	12:30 PM	Sunday School, Rite 13, J2A Registration
September 23	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Begin!
September 30	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet
	11:15 AM	Rite 13 & J2A attend World Café in Parish Hall
October 7		No Classes – Columbus Day Weekend
October 13		TENTATIVE – Saturday Bowling w/ R13/J2A/La Gracia teens
October 14	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet
	11:30 AM	Alternate Bowling pending 10/13
October 21	10:00 AM	Family Service - ALL in Church
October 28	<b><u>11:00 AM</u></b>	Bishop Visitation - ALL in Church
November 4	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet, All Saints' Sunday
November 11		No Classes – Veteran's Day Weekend
November 18	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet – No Family Service – Pledge Offering Sunday
November 25		No Classes – Thanksgiving Weekend
December 1	10 AM-6 PM	Parish Retreat
December 2	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet, Christmas Pageant Prep, Advent I
December 8	3 PM – 7 PM	Santa's Workshop sponsored by J2A
December 9	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet, Christmas Pageant Prep
December 16	10:00 AM	Family Service - ALL in Church
	11:30 AM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for Narrators
December 23	10:00 AM	ALL Classes Meet, Christmas Pageant Prep
	11:30 AM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – ALL in Church
December 24	2:30 PM	Children arrive for pageant costuming
	4:00 PM	Christmas Pageant & Family Mass
December 25		No Christmas Day Service
December 30	10:00 AM	No Classes – Christmas Vacation



***The Deadline For The Winter Angelus  
Is November 15<sup>th</sup>. As Always, Thank You For  
Your Contributions!***

## **DRINK YOUR MORNING BREW**

with a

Devotional from Psalm 91

**Mary Baker**

**B** - BRING YOURSELF to God (Psalm 91:1)

Come honestly  
Come as you are  
Dwell  
Stay awhile

**R** - RELEASE and REST (Psalm 91:2)

Release all your baggage  
Rest in His love  
Trust in Him

**E** - EXPECT GOD to work (Psalm 91:3-8)

“Surely...”, undoubtedly, God will work through His word, His people, circumstances, trials, joys, passions

He will:

Save me  
Cover me  
Give my refuge  
Help me not fear

**W** - WELCOME GOD'S purposes in your life (Psalm 91:9-10)

If you make Him your dwelling place--  
If you love Him –

He will: (Psalm 91:14-16)

Rescue  
Protect  
Answer  
Deliver  
Be with me  
Honor  
Satisfy  
Show me His Salvation

**AMEN**

---

## Grace Church Parish Retreat:



*The Life in the Spirit*

**Saturday December 1, 2018 10 AM-6 PM**

**At Grace Church**

*I am the Bread of Life.*

[John 6:35]

In order to ensure wide participation from both Grace and La Gracia, we have changed our original plans for a Parish Retreat. We will have some prayer and reflection sessions in English, some in Spanish, some for men, some for women, some separate age-appropriate activities and reflections for our children and youth, and some together. We will have some time to be alone and some time to talk together. We will share our stories, our hopes, our food, and our prayers. We will end with our monthly First Saturdays at Grace bi-lingual service of Holy Eucharist at 5 pm.

Our theme will be preparing for new ministry: At some time in the new liturgical year (beginning the next day, on first Sunday of Advent), you will begin ministry with a new Rector and you will develop new plans for your future as a faith community and as an advocate for the wider community. Our readings and prayers will be based on an ecumenical curriculum developed by The Word of God, a Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is designed to lead participants into a deeper understanding of their sacramental and spiritual lives, by renewing our personal faith, becoming mindful of the Holy Spirit guiding our lives together, building trust through sharing our faith stories, and learning new spiritual practices.

If you are not able to come to the retreat itself you will have the opportunity to participate from home on a Prayer Team with the commitment to pray for the participants and for the community of Grace Church at designated times all day on Saturday. Please let Fr. Adolfo or Mother Judith know what role you would like to play on the planning team.

Watch for more news about signing up, the cost, schedule details, and how to help with preparations.

---

## Adult Christian Formation

**Fall, 2018**

We will have 5 separate study series this fall:

**1) 4-Week Course: September 17 – October 17 -The Episcopal Church**

In preparation for the Bishop's Visitation our Wednesday evenings will focus on different aspects of the Episcopal Church. Each week, we will begin with a 30-minute reflection on the Scripture designated for the rites of Baptism and Confirmation.

Then we will discuss the following topics:

1. September 19: The Anglican Communion & The Episcopal Church: Polity & The Book of Common Prayer
2. September 26: The Anglican Tradition: Theology
3. October 10: The Anglican Tradition: Interpretation of Scripture
4. October 17: The Anglican Tradition: The Sacraments

You are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

**2) 4-Week Study: Bible Study: Wednesdays evenings**

**October 24-November 14:** The Gospel of Mark

**3) 4-Week Advent Bible Study: Wednesday evenings**

**November 28-December 19:** The Promise of the Messiah

**4) Online Weekly e-Bible Study: September 17-November 17:** The Gospel of Mark

Drawing upon *A Journey Through Mark: The 50-Day Bible Challenge* [ed. Marek P. Zabriskie. Forward Movement, 2015], our weekly e-Bible Study will focus on the Gospel of Mark because it is the Gospel that we have been reading on most Sundays of this liturgical year.

**5) Online Daily e-Bible Study: Advent: December 1-24** We will have daily e-meditations and an Advent Calendar on our website during Advent.

---

## **SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION**

This is a brief summary of the legislation passed at General Convention this summer, drawn from the Episcopal News Service reporting and from *The Episcopal New Yorker*, the official publication of the Diocese of New York:

1. The Episcopal Church of Cuba is reinstated as a diocese that will be part of Province II, which includes New York and New Jersey.
2. Liturgical Revision – Rather than plan for a revision of the Book of Common Prayer, the 1979 Book of Common Prayer will continue to be used throughout the Episcopal church, while new liturgical texts will be available that incorporate inclusive language and appreciation for God's creation. Also available will be revisions of the Eucharistic Prayers in the prayer book that use inclusive language.

3. The bishops participated in a liturgy in which they offered laments and confession for the church's role in the sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation of women.
4. Immigration was a central topic of prayer, discussion, and legislation. Three resolutions articulated the church's stand on respecting the dignity of every human being, opposing family separations, and encouraging churches to support immigrants facing deportation.
5. Six resolutions were passed to address the responsibility of the Episcopal Church to address the struggle for peace between Israel and Palestine, through their investments, their advocacy for Palestinian children, and monitoring the escalating use of force by both sides.

---

### BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE GENERAL CONVENTION

By Priscilla Read



At General Convention in Austin, Texas, I was a first-timer and played a small, focused part with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship-Palestine Israel Network (EPF-PIN) and its allies' advocacy for resolutions linked to Palestinians' human rights. Though I was there only briefly, the experience was inspiring and thrilling—inspiring because humanitarian and religious principles were so organically fused and the teamwork so strong, thrilling because of the dramatic developments in the Episcopal Church's policies. PIN had accomplished a great deal in the three years since the

preceding Convention, and changes in Church leadership and in the wider political context undoubtedly influenced the outcome.

I arrived as committee hearings on resolutions were beginning and left as resolutions were moving to the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. For four days I worked with some forty people of all ages on a team that included Episcopalians, Palestinian Christians and Muslims, American and Israeli Jews, Mennonites, Lutherans, and representatives from a variety of social justice groups. Our diversity (see photo) positively impressed the deputies. Volunteers did shifts at the PIN booth to engage with deputies and visitors. We offered three-minute “testimonials” before the committees who were examining the resolutions on Palestine and then attended their evening session, where we were elated to see those resolutions unanimously approved. I also attended an informal luncheon for the Diocese of New York’s deputation, where Assistant Bishop Mary Glasspool, whom I had visited before heading to Austin, asked me to address the group.

Presiding Bishop Curry’s emphasis on Gospel justice distinguished the first General Convention over which he presided. In Brush Square Park he organized the large Bishops United Against Gun Violence Public Witness, then afterwards led hundreds on buses to a prayer vigil at the Hutto Detention Center, where mothers and children from the US-Mexican border are imprisoned. In the past, for reasons on which opinions diverge, resolutions on Palestine had not received sustained consideration. In the last year Bishop Curry established a task force that met frequently to study this problem and ultimately proposed that resolutions be examined in a joint hearing by the two responsible committees, #7 Social Justice and International Policy and #18 Stewardship and Socially Responsible Investing. The task force also recommended that resolutions on Palestine be heard first by the House of Deputies, which some thought might be more favorably disposed to the issues than the House of Bishops.

Votes in committees and in the two Houses reflected major evolution in Church policy. Six resolutions got the approval of both Houses required for passage. Perhaps most significant was the one that directed the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility to develop human rights criteria to make decisions about investments in Palestine/Israel. In response to the decision to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, another affirmed the Episcopal Church’s commitment to Jerusalem as the shared capital of Israel and of Palestine and to respect for the civil rights and religious interests of Christians, Muslims, and Jews. A third called for reinstatement of full US funding of UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, which had been slashed by the Trump administration. In light of documented mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention, one resolution sought assurances from Israeli and Palestinian authorities that the rights of all children under international law be respected. A fifth recognized the right to self-determination for both Palestinians and Israelis and supported a negotiated settlement recognized by both parties, whatever form that settlement might take – a recognition that the so-called “two-

state” model may no longer be viable. Finally, a resolution condemned the use of live fire by Israeli forces against unarmed civilians in Gaza and urged compliance with the Leahy Amendment relating to US military aid.

Interestingly, the House of Deputies approved certain resolutions that the House of Bishops rejected. A more trenchant formulation on investment policy that referred to “Church Complicity in the Occupation” passed in the former by a wide margin (619-214) but was rejected by the latter (78-48). Two pointing to Israeli laws that discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel, in particular one that used the term “apartheid,” also were approved by Deputies but not by the Bishops. Both houses rejected a resolution affirming that state and federal legislation that penalizes support for nonviolent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights infringes the First Amendment

What accounts for the remarkable shift reflected in these six resolutions? Along with years of work by EPF-PIN and its allies, there were several possible influences: first, the role of Bishop Curry; second, in reaction to Trump administration policies, a heightened sensitivity to injustice and inequality; third, the Great Return March and images on media screens of nonviolent, unarmed Gazans being shot by Israeli snipers.

Or perhaps it was a miracle?

---

### *What is the Diocese of New York?*

Grace Episcopal Church / La Gracia is a member of the Diocese of New York. Many of us (parishioners) may not be aware of the Diocese or what relationship we have with the Diocese of New York.

Following is a definition of the term diocese and diocesan council, followed by an explanation on our relationship with the Diocese of New York. The term diocese identifies the territorial jurisdiction of a diocesan bishop. This term originated during the Roman Empire and became a way for churches to identify civil units within cities. As the church expanded out from the cities, these civil units became known as dioceses. In modern times dioceses were initially identified as a state; eventually these state-wide dioceses were divided into smaller dioceses for pastoral and practical reasons. For example, the State of New York has six dioceses.

The Diocese of New York was organized in 1787 after the success of the American Revolution, resulting in the establishment of the Anglican Church. It is one of the nine original dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The original Diocese of New York was divided twice, once in 1838 when the Diocese of Western New York was created and again in 1868 when the Diocese of Long Island was established. Currently, the Diocese of New York is comprised of the following counties:

Bronx, Dutchess, New York, Orange, Putnam, Richmond, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

The diocesan offices are in Manhattan on the grounds of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Amsterdam Avenue, New York. The diocese is the administrative arm of the church, headed by our Diocesan bishop, Andrew ML Dietsche, (16<sup>th</sup> Bishop of New York), and assisted by Allen K. Shin, Suffragan Bishop, Mary Glasspool, Bishop Assistant and the Right Reverend Clifton Daniel III, D.D., Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

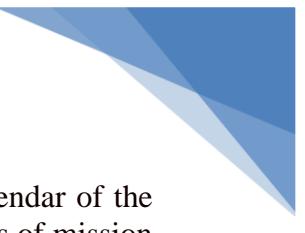
The Bishop is elected by Convention and is the head of the diocese and its ecclesiastical authority. He oversees and guides the diocese in combination with the Convention, Diocesan Council (including Standing Committee.) The rules and by-laws governing the diocese are known as Diocesan Constitution and Canons. The Bishop presides over Diocesan Convention, the ultimate organizational decision-making body, comprised of clergy and lay members. Diocesan Convention meets annually for one or two days in November with the following primary focus: voting on a Diocesan budget (based on recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee of the Diocesan Council), election of members to the diocese's various administrative, executive and judicial bodies and votes on any resolutions—including those that amend or add to the Constitution or Canons—that may be brought before the Convention. When necessary, it elects the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor and the Bishop(s) Suffragan.

The Diocesan Council is the executive body mandated by the Diocesan Constitution and serves as an advisory group to the Bishop and Diocesan staff, overseeing the development of the Diocese's operating budget and recommends the budget at convention for approval. The Council provides guidance and oversight for the Diocese between conventions, work in committees to support Diocesan staff, ministries and serves as liaisons to parishes in the Diocese.

The Council is in the process of refining its role but will retain its current structure of commissions and committees. The Council will also be tasked with assisting the Diocese and its congregations with implementing resolutions passed at Diocesan and General Convention. The Council will also be responsible for creating a yearly diocesan calendar to assist with the scheduling and coordination of activities of the Diocese. The old Interparish Council (regional mini councils) will be reinstated. Below are the members of the Council:

- ❖ the Bishop or his/her designee, who acts as the President
- ❖ all other Bishops of the Diocese (Coadjutor (if any), Suffragan, Assistant)
- ❖ the Treasurer of the Diocese
- ❖ the President of the Episcopal Church Women
- ❖ 18 members elected by Convention on staggered three-year terms (clergy and lay)
- ❖ 6 members appointed by the Bishop at his or her pleasure (clergy and lay)
- ❖ Trustees (Council determines the slate for Trustee)

### *Commissions and Committees of the Council*



The three functions of the Council are to oversee the mission, program and the calendar of the Diocese of New York by assisting the Diocese and its congregations. The five marks of mission for the Council are defined in the Baptismal Covenant: ***Promoting the Eucharistic fellowship in prayer and teaching; Resisting evil; Proclaiming the Gospel by word and deed; Living out the New Commandment in work and service; Sharing and upholding the integrity of creation in justice and in peace.***

The Council is comprised of the following separate commissions and committees, which are responsible for carrying out much of the Council's mission and work:

- ❖ ***Christian Formation Commission:*** dedicated to moving individuals of all ages to growth in faith and in the practice of the Christian life.
- ❖ ***Congregational Development Commission:*** responsible for supporting, advising and assisting congregations as they strive to grow in numbers and spirituality.
- ❖ ***Global Mission Commission:*** coordinates and oversees efforts at diocesan and local levels to support missionary aspects of congregational life, both in their own communities and further afield, including connecting congregations with global mission opportunities and relationships.
- ❖ ***Social Concerns Commission:*** urges and helps every congregation within the Diocese to include social witness as part of its common life by raising issues of social concern, advocating for social change, and providing congregations with tools they may need to work for that change.
- ❖ ***Leadership Development Commission:*** works to identify lay leaders within congregations and the diocese.
- ❖ ***Budget and Finance Committee:*** allocates funding from diocesan resources in response to requests from eligible diocesan bodies and recommends a budget for the following year to the Diocesan Convention.

Each of the above commissions/committees has specific programs that they have developed and are coordinating with parishes in the dioceses. Parishes throughout the diocese have representatives on Diocesan Council, and/or participate on one or more of the above Commission and/or Committees. Council meetings are held every other month, except for the months of July and August. Leadership Development Commission meets monthly.

Grace Church / La Garcia's relationship with the diocese is through several activities and programs that we are involved with. Grace Church pays a diocesan assessment yearly to the diocese, to help fund the programs of the diocese. Lifting up Westchester, Grace's Soup Kitchen and La Garcia receive grants from the diocese. I serve on Diocesan Council and the Leadership Development Commission. Lauren Reid is on Christian Formation Commission. Fr. Adolfo is on the Congregational Development Committee, and Mother Judith celebrates the weekday Eucharist at the Cathedral every month. In past years members of Grace Church have participated in the Diocesan Mission Fair, in Strategic Planning Process, and several other workshops sponsored by the diocese. Additionally, we have at minimum two delegate and clergy that attend Diocesan Convention every year.

I hope this article provides somewhat of an understanding of the diocese and its work and relationship with parishes. The diocese is a resource for parishes that provides grants, referrals to organizations or companies and other resources that may be of benefit to a parish. Check out the Diocesan Website, [www.dioceseny.org](http://www.dioceseny.org) to stay informed of diocesan activities. ENS (Episcopal News Service), [www.episcopalnewsservice.org](http://www.episcopalnewsservice.org) is another resource that provides information on what is going on in the wider Episcopal Church. Both websites are full of interesting information that helps us to stay informed.

*Faithfully Submitted,  
Sandy Gadsden-McAllister*

**The Angelus**  
Quarterly Newsletter  
of Grace Church  
(914) 949-2874  
[www.gracewhiteplains.org](http://www.gracewhiteplains.org)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Judith Lee

Editors: Mary Baker and Michael Heffner

Contributors: Karen Odom, Rev. Adolfo Moronta, Mary Baker, Rev. Judith Lee, Charlotte Roberson, Sandy Gadsden McAllister, Priscilla Read, Joseph Gallo, Donna Louis, Peter Roberts, Elsie Adams

Distributor: Maria Campos

## **CHANGE IS EVER PRESENT**

### **WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ELSIE ADAMS**

Grace Church is awaiting a major change—we are in the process of selecting a new Rector. This is a very significant move and we need to be in a receptive mood.

Let us pray that we will be directed to the right choice. After the choice is definite, then let us pray that we will accept the decision and **live with** it. Willingness to adapt and keep moving in a positive direction really makes the change easier to accept.

During my 98 years of living on this earth, I have undergone many changes in my life. Reaching this age has brought about changes in my daily life, primarily related to physical issues. Severe arthritis in one knee causes significant pain and makes it difficult to maintain my balance. Therefore, I use a walker and can no longer walk on my own. I used to be able to walk alone from my home to Grace Church in 15 minutes. I feel sad at times about my loss of independent

movement and the need for assistance to complete the daily tasks of living. I am grateful to have family and friends who help me get to church and to navigate my day successfully.

I've also begun to suffer from short term memory loss. Often, I forget what I was doing or saying. This makes me feel very frustrated and anxious that I'm losing control of my life. Since I'm already mourning physical loss, dealing with cognitive loss is doubly painful on an emotional level.

In order to manage my needs, I've had to accept hiring a companion to assist me. Acknowledging the need for this assistance was very difficult. However, accepting help rather than resisting allowed me to develop a warm friendship with someone who has touched my life profoundly.

I still struggle with the changes that are present in my personal and Church life, and I certainly don't have the answers. Although accepting change due to loss is difficult, going through it may provide unexpected rewards. Since change is ever present and will always be part of life, it is with prayer, reflection and the willingness to be receptive that we will all be able to adapt and adjust to change.



Where Hope Takes Flight—One Person At A Time

### **LIFTING UP WESTCHESTER**

BE A GOOD SAMARITAN AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

1. Donate a gift card to McDonald's or Dunkin Donuts so teens can buy breakfast.
2. Donate snacks for the Brighter Future Program (see snack list).
3. Students over age 13 who need Community Service Hours can volunteer to help in Lifting Up Westchester programs.
4. Bake goodies to donate to Grace's Kitchen (something to do with your children.)
5. Donate food for the Fall Holiday Meals at Grace's Kitchen.

#### **Snack List for the Brighter Futures Program**



- Snack Cracker Packets – Cheese or Peanut Butter
- Potato Chips, Doritos
- CHOCOLATE!**

**Nature Valley:**

- Sweet and Salty Nut Granola
- Oats and Honey

**Cliff Bar:**

- Peanut Butter Bar

**Kidz Zone:**

- Caramel Crunch
- Yellow Cupcake

**Welch's and Kellogg's:**

- Fruit Snacks

**Kind:**

- Almond and Coconut Bar
- Caramel Crunch

**NON-PERISHABLE FOODS (NO glass containers please):**

- Juices Boxes and Bottled Water - SMALL
- Macaroni and Cheese – Boxed & Individual Microwaveable Containers
  - Tuna Fish and Canned Chicken
    - Jelly
    - Soup
    - Ravioli
  - Tomato Sauce and Pasta

**BEFORE DONATING – PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ON YOUR ITEMS: NO GLASS JARS, EXPIRATION DATE & CONTAINERS' CONDITION**

**When possible, please sort and pack according to variety.**

Thank you for your support!

---

## **Be Inspired by these Words from Corrie Ten Boon**

Some knowledge is too heavy—you cannot bear it—your Father will carry it until you are able.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open.  
\*\*\*\*\*

In darkness God's truth shines most clear.  
\*\*\*\*\*

When I try, I fail. When I trust, he succeeds.  
\*\*\*\*\*

This is what the past is for! Every experience God gives us, every person he puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see.  
\*\*\*\*\*

---

## **OOPS! CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM – prayer and medication to follow.

---

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

---

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

---

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

---

## **Abba, Father**

Abba, Father, let me be  
Yours, and Yours alone.

May my will and purpose be  
Ever, always, Your own.

Never let my heart grow cold.  
Never let me roam.

Abba, Father, let me be  
Yours, and Your alone.

Submitted by **Mary Baker**

## Grace Church Choirs: Behind the Beautiful Music



I thought it might be helpful to take a peek behind the beautiful music with an update on the Grace Church choirs. The Grace Church Choir, comprised of volunteers, college students (music majors), and professional singers, is dedicated to enriching and illuminating the gospel through song and instrumental playing. With a focus on maintaining a varied repertoire, from English cathedral music to Taize, spirituals, jazz, and music from

the folk traditions, our goal is to complement the readings and to celebrate the gospel's message of Hope, Love, and Deliverance.

Our children's choir, the St. Nicholas Choir, consists of children ages 6 to 15, who meet after church each week, and perform on the third Sunday of the month during the family service. This choir also works on maintaining diversity in the selection of music for worship.

Both choirs did exceptionally well in the 2017-2018 church year. Three services in particular come to mind: In October, the choir performed a varied selection of both traditional and contemporary works for the church's exceptionally lovely Evensong service that celebrated the ministry of the Rev. Richard Kunz. In December, the choir's service of Lessons and Carols featured both traditional carols, and carols and anthems from Hispanic and African-American traditions. And, to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the choir delivered a range of anthems that included a jazz Psalm as well as anthems from England and the United States. In addition to the anthems and hymns, Priya Kumar, a member of the St. Nicholas Choir, performed an extraordinary classical Indian dance—a performance that energized and inspired the entire congregation. All who witnessed her performance felt the power and love of the Holy Spirit descend on Grace Church.



Our vision for the coming year is to continue to explore both traditional and contemporary repertoire, and to weave multi-cultural music (along with creative movement, liturgical dance and shadow puppetry) into the service.

I am very pleased to share more good news—the choir is actually growing! In addition to our very loyal and faithful volunteers (some of whom have been members of the choir since the 1970s), a number of new church members have joined. Last year we welcomed two new members to the choir with other congregants expressing a desire to “sing to the Lord a new song.” The ability to read music is not a requirement to join the choir. Choir rehearsals are conducted before and after the Sunday service. All interested will be welcomed with joy.

*Submitted by Peter Roberts, Grace Church Music Director*

---

### **Coming Events**

**Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>: First Saturdays at Grace: 4:30-6:00 pm** - Blessing of the animals on our front lawn. We invite the community to bring their pets for a blessing and a treat.

We will have 3 benefits for the Organ Fund this fall, which we are hosting in collaboration with Downtown Music:

**Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>: First Saturdays at Grace:** All Souls' Day performance of Mozart's *Requiem* by choir and orchestra.

**Sunday, November 11, 4:30 pm – Folklore Urbano** – a Colombian Jazz quartet, led by Pablo Mayor. You can learn more about them at their website: <http://folkloreurbano.com>. They will also play for the first DTM concert on Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a public concert – we will set an appropriate ticket price.

**Saturday, December 8, 5 pm –Jazz Vespers** - Alex Auld Quartet will play for a service of Jazz Vespers, centered on “Blue Christmas”—we will begin and end with prayer for those who find the Christmas season difficult, with perhaps a reading at the center, and the band will plan for most of the hour – non-verbal prayer. This will overlap with the J2A Santa’s Workshop (3pm-7 pm) that day, so we can advertise that childcare will be available for the service. We will have a Free Will Offering for this service.

We are grateful to Barbara and Bill Biles for underwriting the cost of the December 8<sup>th</sup> Concert, and to the Lee-Haidvogel family for underwriting the November 11<sup>th</sup> concert. Eileen McClean is soliciting corporate and community sponsors for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> performance. We are grateful to her for organizing both the November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup> concerts. We also thank to Tim Lewis for initiating contact with Folklore Urbano, and for the opportunity to collaborate with Downtown Music.

## Faces of Grace

The Young People of the Confirmation Class of 2018 hosted the Labor Day Grace's Kitchen Barbecue Event (with 101 guests and 42 volunteers). A great success and the start of a new tradition at Grace.



## La Gracia First Communion Celebration



## Book Bag Blessing Sunday





## Rest in Peace



**The Rev. Canon Percy A. Brathwaite**

**John Carter**

