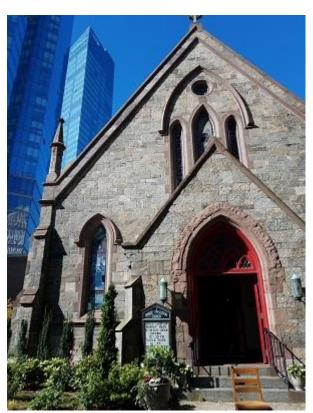




## Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2.14

## **Advent Season**

Advent is here. What thoughts come to mind? If you are mindful of the weather, then cooler temperatures and the anticipation of snow. But as we Christians look inward, because that's what we do in Advent, we realize now is a time for contemplating the sacred. In fact, that's the theme for my 3-part Adult Education series, contemplating the sacred. The classes are scheduled for 7:00 PM on Mondays December 2, 9 and 16; and will be held in our library. Please join us.

As we ponder the sacred, we realize that God through Christ is open to all, each and every one of us. Therefore, everyone can participate in

Advent by recognizing and practicing 'presence', distancing ourselves from the day-to-day frenzy. Just breathe. No seriously, just breathe. And when you breathe, do it slowly and with no assumptions other than to be still in the moment, realizing that God is in control; and that God is all around us in his creation. You can continue this practice in silence or slowly repeat a short phrase that connects you to God.

Advent is a wonderful time to ponder where we've been, where we are and where we hope to be. God bless you this Advent. Take advantage of this time to reflect. It's important. It's part of our heritage. It's a way to ponder and connect with the sacred in our lives.

"¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas! ¡Paz en la tierra entre los hombres que gozan de su favor! Lucas 2.14

## Temporada de Adviento

Adviento está aquí. ¿Qué pensamientos le vienen a su mente? Si eres consciente del clima, entonces las temperaturas más frescas y la anticipación de la nieve. Pero a medida que los cristianos miramos hacia adentro, porque eso es lo que hacemos en Adviento, nos damos cuenta de que ahora es el momento de contemplar lo sagrado. De hecho, ese es el tema de mi serie de 3 partes de Educación para adultos, contemplando lo sagrado. Las clases están programadas para las 7:00 PM los lunes 2, 9 y 16 de diciembre; y se llevará a cabo en nuestra biblioteca. Por favor únete a nosotros.

Al reflexionar sobre lo sagrado, nos damos cuenta de que Dios a través de Cristo está abierto a todos, a todos y cada uno de nosotros. Por lo tanto, todos pueden participar en el Adviento al reconocer y practicar la "presencia", alejándonos del frenesí del día a día. Sólo respira. No en serio, solo respira. Y cuando respire, hágalo lentamente y sin otras suposiciones que quedarse quieto en el momento, dándose cuenta de que Dios tiene el control; y que Dios está a nuestro alrededor en su creación. Puedes continuar esta práctica en silencio o repetir lentamente una frase corta que te conecte con Dios.

El Adviento es un momento maravilloso para reflexionar sobre dónde hemos estado, dónde estamos y dónde esperamos estar. Dios te bendiga este Adviento. Aproveche este tiempo para reflexionar. Es importante. Es parte de nuestra herencia. Es una forma de reflexionar y conectarse con lo sagrado en nuestras vidas.

## **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

| If you are depressed                                   | call Psalm            |
|--|-----------------------|
| If your pocketbook is empty                            | call Psalm 37         |
| If you are losing confidence in people.                | call 1 Corinthians 13 |
| If people seem unkind                                  | call John 15          |
| If discouraged about your work                         | call Psalm 126        |
| If you find the world growing small and yourself great | call Psalm 19         |

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day! Feed your faith, and doubt will starve to death!!

## Blessing of the Animals at Grace (October 5<sup>th</sup>)



## Our Lady of Guadalupe

#### Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Mary's life and role in the history of salvation is foreshadowed in the Old Testament, while the events of her life are recorded in the New Testament. Traditionally, she was declared the daughter of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Born in Jerusalem, Mary was presented in the Temple and took a vow of virginity. According to the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38, living in Nazareth, Mary was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who announced to her that she would become the Mother of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.

Mary is known by many different titles (Blessed Mother, Madonna, Our Lady), epithets (Star of the Sea, Queen of Heaven, Cause of Our Joy), and other names Our Lady of Loreto, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Catalina, Copacabana, ... In our Book of Common Prayer (p.864) she is mentioned as "Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer (Theotokos)."

All of the titles Mary bears refer to the same individual named Mary, the mother of Jesus and are used variably by all who have a devotion to her. In Latin America the figure of Mary arrived with the Spanish conquest, when indigenous peoples were evangelized and converted. Conquered peoples later embraced her not as a Patron of their conquerors but as the "mother of God," who stands with those suffering oppression and discrimination. Throughout Latin America and in the faith of Spanish-speaking Episcopalians Mary is widely recognized and is an important part of the faith.



The Virgin of Guadalupe is the familiar most and common devotions of Mary in Latin This America. representation comes from an appearance of Mary to an indigenous farmer in the 16th Century in Mexico. He found this image miraculously imprinted on his peasant garment, and it is still

on display in a church in Tepeyac, Mexico. The rays in the background symbolize an Aztec deity which is being eclipsed by Mary. She is wearing a black cincture which, at the time, symbolized pregnancy.

The Blessed Mother of Guadalupe holds a special place in the religious life of Mexico from where 80% of the parishioners of La Gracia come from. Her image has played an important role in Mexican history but is not limited to religious matters; she has also played an important function in Mexican nationalism and identity.

The celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is La Gracia's largest religious celebration

and the preparations for this event have already begun. We expect to have between 200-300 people present. The celebration will have three major moments: a) the procession outside the church which is done together with a Mariachi Band b) the Eucharist and c) the Mañanitas which are the celebrations that will be done after the service that will include dinner and music until the clock hit 12:01 AM. We invite all parishioners to come and be part of this religious and cultural celebration

## **OUR FRIENDS, THE O'HANLON/SOUTHWICK FAMILY**

The O'Hanlon/Southwick family has attended Grace Church since 2004. In commenting on their initial attraction to the Church, George and Karen stated that, "we were attracted to Grace Church's diversity, breadth of activities and thought, the beautiful sanctuary, the excellent programs for children and its dedication to the furthering of God's mission in our lives." George and Karen's three children – Nikolas, aged 19; Anna, aged 16 and Vika, aged 14 -- have been part of the Sunday School program and Church Congregation since their pre-kindergarten years. You have likely seen them as acolytes, ushers and/or youth choir members in our Eucharist, as well as participants in various Grace Church events, such as the Grace Kitchen. George and Karen were married on March 24, 1991, on a sunny day in Saguaro National Monument, near Tucson, Arizona, where they were living at the time.



Karen is a graduate of the Colorado College and Johns Hopkins Medical School. Karen spent several of her childhood years living in various parts of Asia, particularly India, where her father studied monkeys as a primatologist. There Karen adopted an affinity for India and its needs, and upon graduation from college, returned to India to work for one of Mother Theresa's orphanages in Calcutta, and performed later service work in other parts of India. Following her graduation from medical school and

completion of her internship and residency, Karen obtained her Masters of Science of Public Health at the London School of Tropical Medicine. Upon completing her MSc, Karen did medical relief work in Azerbaijan where she worked for some time, before returning to the United States. Karen has since worked for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and the Oregon and North Carolina Departments of Health. Karen currently works as a physician for the New York State Department of Health, focused on investigating outbreaks of infectious diseases in hospitals, nursing homes and dialysis centers. Karen's passion is horse riding, which she shares with her daughters.

George is a graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School. George has spent his legal career working at IBM, primarily on negotiations and specialty areas he has developed over the years. During his 37 years at IBM, George has lived in 6 different states and two countries outside the US – the UK and Brazil. George considers the opportunity to live in such diverse places a highlight of his working life. George enjoys running as his hobby, having run competitively in

high school and college, but regretfully concedes that his marathon days are behind him, and that his times will get a little slower every year!

Nikolas, Anna and Vika have been visible at Grace Church for many years. Nikolas is a freshman at Pace University, where he is currently studying Computer Science. Given the proximity of the school, Nikolas regularly attends Grace Church and serves as Michael Heffner's second in the photography department – one of Nikolas's hobbies. Nikolas has continued his interest in Boy Scouts by working as a junior leader at Troop 10 in White Plains. Anna is a junior at the Harvey School in Katonah, where she is on the volleyball team and member of the band, as well as joining her mother's passion in riding horses. Anna is an enthusiastic member of the Journey to Adulthood class, and enjoys participating in the many opportunities Grace Church provides. Vika is a freshman at White Plains High School, and, like her sister, plays the violin. Vika's main activity outside school is riding with the competitive equestrian team at the Boulder Brook stable in Scarsdale. Vika completed her Rite 13 program last year, and is now a member of J2A.

In 2010, the O'Hanlon/Southwick family decided to pursue an adventure to live in Brazil for two years, which proved to be a family highlight. George was able to get an assignment with IBM there, and so with little knowledge about exactly what was there, the family moved South to what proved to be a very enriching experience for the whole family. Early on the family found a very hospitable English-speaking Church, which served as a core of friends and fellowship. The children and Karen became fluent in Portuguese and speak it to this day – George, not so much. The two years went quickly but many family memories were created during this time.

The O'Hanlons currently live in White Plains, very close to Karen's mother Heather, who currently resides at the Ambassador in Scarsdale. Heather is also often seen at Grace Church, and is also a member of the SAGE Group.

The O'Hanlon/Southwick's have found Grace Church to be a wonderful place of fellowship, friendship, service, and personal and religious growth. They consider many members of the Congregation as their good friends, and all members of the Congregation as their Christian brothers and sisters.

By Irene Alves

## STEWARDSHIP 2019-20

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Once again, we ask everyone to participate in our stewardship campaign. The stewardship theme for 2020 is "New Beginnings". Our stewardship campaign began on September 29<sup>th</sup> with something new: "Conversations of Grace" during the coffee hour. In October we invited parishioners to add their thoughts to a stewardship post- it board, and

asked our youth to write The Prayers of The People. Each Sunday in November a different parishioner gave a talk called "A Stewardship Minute". What are your new beginnings? How does your faith and Grace/LaGracia Church help you bring about your new beginnings?

In the November 3<sup>rd</sup> bulletin there were letters from the stewardship committee and from Father Chip asking that everyone participate in our stewardship campaign according to your ability. We hope that you have made or will make a generous pledge to Grace/LaGracia Church. We are asking that you make this a new beginning. Before you pledge, think about all the good that our church can and does do with the money that it receives. Please challenge yourself by giving the highest amount you can give.

We began distributing the pledge forms at church on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have mailed pledge forms to all other parishioners. Pledge Sunday was November 17<sup>th</sup>. Our children brought their promise cards up to the altar on pledge Sunday. If you did not already make a commitment please do so as soon as possible. Pledge forms are available in the back of the church. You can also contact Cynthia S. Brown or Charlotte Roberson for information and a pledge form. Let us give generously and graciously of our time, talent and fortune to ensure a bright future for Grace/LaGracia.

**Charlotte Roberson** 

Stewardship Chairperson

## **Thoughts on Stewardship Post It**

(Contributions from Parishioners)

Prayerfully Respond

Giving to the Community

When you give, it seems you get more back in return

Have forms available all the time for new people

I'll give with a cheerful heart!!

Gives a purpose to serve

Gives the purpose to serve and manage something such as organization and fundraising

Time and Energy

Give and you shall receive

Giving to others is loving God

Thank you for all the things you do for the church

It's important to give back to the community which supports and

nurtures us!

A reminder of my commitment to our spiritual home

## MAYORDOMIA 2019-20

"Por lo tanto, si alguien está en Cristo, él es una nueva creación. Lo viejo ha pasado; he aquí, lo nuevo ha llegado".

2 Corintios 5:17

Una vez más, les pedimos a todos que participen en nuestra campaña de mayordomía. El tema de

mayordomía para 2020 es "Nuevos comienzos". Nuestra campaña de mayordomía comenzó el 29 de Septiembre con algo nuevo: "Conversaciones de gracia" durante la hora del café. En octubre, invitamos a los feligreses a agregar sus pensamientos a una pizarra de mayordomía, y le pedimos a nuestros jóvenes que escribieran Las oraciones de la gente. Cada domingo de noviembre, un feligrés diferente dio una charla llamada "Un minuto de mayordomía". ¿Cuáles son tus nuevos comienzos? ¿Cómo te ayudan tu fe y la Iglesia Grace / La Gracia a lograr tus nuevos comienzos? En el boletín del 3 de noviembre, hubo cartas del comité de mayordomía y del padre Chip pidiendo que todos participen en nuestra campaña de mayordomía de acuerdo con su capacidad. Esperamos que hayas hecho o hagas una promesa generosa a Grace / La Gracia. Le pedimos que haga de esto un nuevo comienzo. Antes de comprometerse, piense en todo lo bueno que nuestra iglesia puede

Comenzamos a distribuir los formularios de las promesas en la iglesia el 3 de noviembre. Hemos enviado formularios de promesas por correo a todos los demás feligreses. El domingo de promesa fue el 17 de noviembre. Nuestros niños trajeron sus tarjetas de promesa al altar el domingo de promesas. Si aún no se comprometió, hágalo lo antes posible. Los formularios de promesas están disponibles en la parte posterior de la iglesia. También puede comunicarse con Cynthia S. Brown o Charlotte Roberson para obtener información y un formulario de promesa. Demos generosamente nuestro tiempo, talento y dinero para asegurar un futuro brillante para Grace / La Gracia.

y hace con el dinero que recibe. Desafíate dando la cantidad más garnde que puedas dar.

#### **Charlotte Roberson**

Presidente de Mayordomía

## **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – DECEMBER 10th**

#### By Mary Baker

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

Do these words sound familiar? No, they are not the words that begin our United States Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, even though they sound somewhat similar. These are the words of Article 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948, by the United Nations in the early days of its existence. The world had just ended the bloody days of the Second World War. They were written against a backdrop of atrocities and nightmarish attacks by countries against other countries and against civilians. At that time there were hopes that such nightmares could be things of the past. The belief was that countries, by signing this document, would abandon such inhumanity against fellow human beings.

There are 30 articles in the document. Among other things, it enumerates such rights as the right to life, liberty, security, and equality before the law, privacy, freedom of movement, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression. It documents that some acts are totally unacceptable such as slavery, torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, denial of nationhood, and political persecution.

Now seventy years have passed, but inhumanity in the world is still alive and well, even though this document was agreed to by most (not <u>all</u>) countries of the world. These words have been easy to abandon when a country's own self-interest takes precedence. Even our own country has ruled that these are not words of <u>law</u> that we must adhere to, but only suggestions for moral conduct, which is an easy "out" even for the United States.

December 10<sup>th</sup> is listed on our calendars as Human Rights Day. Unfortunately, many people do not even notice it there. And many do not know what that day means. It should be an important day on our calendars, in our schools, and in our places of worship. It should be a day for prayer and reflection for all Christians. We should reflect on the condition of the world today and the need for each of us to pray for God's healing where these promises have been broken. More importantly, since prayer and reflection are only the solitary initial step, we must ask God to show us what way each one of us can act to carry out these ideals. We do not aspire to a solitary faith. We are asked to participate in a faith that leads to action. Our faith needs feet on the ground! We should be informed. Then we must be willing to stand up for our beliefs and act on them in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Start by being aware of the importance of Human Rights Day. Circle it on your calendar. Discuss it in your family. Be vocal. Be passionate. Then be an advocate for human rights in our own country and everywhere.

## Lifting Up Westchester 2018 Essay Contest

Sponsored by **Hannah Nelson**, LUW Board of Directors

## Lifting Up Westchester Announces Student Essay Contest Exploring the Role Hope Plays in Helping to Transform Lives

**WHITE PLAINS** – Lifting Up Westchester, a non-profit agency committed to helping individuals achieve self-sufficiency, announces their third annual high school student essay contest. This year the contest will explore the role hope plays in helping to transform lives. Open to all Westchester students in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades, students are invited to reflect on the meaning of hope and the impact it can have in times of adversity.

The essay contest was established in 2017 in memory of Beth Massey Rubens, a lifelong teacher, tutor and mentor who had a love for language arts.

This year's essay invites students to reflect on the complex subject of hope. Beyond fundamental, everyday necessities, such as food and shelter, do we need hope to thrive? Why? How can we regain hope when it has been lost? How do we know when hope has been restored? Students are asked to provide a real-life example of how hope has made a difference between hanging on and just giving up. And finally, essays must relate back to the core mission and work of Lifting Up Westchester.

"The topic of hope is a powerful one," noted Anahaita Kotval, CEO of Lifting Up Westchester. "We know firsthand how important hope is for those who are experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, incarceration or struggling to change their lives. We want this contest to encourage students to think about what the Westchester community can do to help men, women and children who are feeling hopeless."

First, second and third place cash prizes will be awarded in three grade groups; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. First prize in each category is \$500, second prize \$250 and third prize \$100. An Awards Brunch will be held in late April to celebrate the winners.

Students can enter the contest from November 1, 2019 through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Essays must be submitted in PDF format via e-mail to: <a href="luwessaycontest@gmail.com">luwessaycontest@gmail.com</a>. Students, teachers and parents can learn more about how the contest works and the judging criteria by visiting www.liftingupwestchester.org.

For more information about Lifting Up Westchester, visit www.liftingupwestchester.org or contact Chris Schwartz at cschwartz@liftingupwestchester.org or (914) 949-3098.

In our last issue we printed two winning essays in a Lifting Up Westchester 2018 Essay Contest sponsored by Hannah Nelson, who is on the LUW Board of Directors. The topic of the essay contest was "Second Chances." In the last Angelus we published Katie Chong's winning essay for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade contestants. We also published Julian Chaves winning essay for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade contestants.

There was a tie for first place in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. The winners were Kyle Dede from Archbishop Stepinac High School and Janilssy Luna from White Plains High School. Here are those two winning essays.

## Kyle Dede 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Archbishop Stepinac High School

## WHY SECOND CHANCES ARE IMPORTANT

**Kvle Dede** 

9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Archbishop Stepinac High School

The idea of second chances has been a very important part of my family's life. Second chances to live a happy family life, second chances at living life, and second chances at maintaining trust have all played a big part in changing my world. Not only have I been given second chances, but my family has also been given a few that have highly impacted my life. Giving people a second chance is a topic that is very important to me because my own life wouldn't be as good as it is now without us being given this opportunity. Some of the most important examples for why people should be given a second chance have been given to my father, my sister and me.

My father was sentenced to 16 years in prison when I was only three years old. At the time I was too young to recognize it, but this had put a heavy weight on my family. My mom was now a single mother with two children and had to figure out how to raise us. As I got older, I understood the situation more. There was no father figure in my life for most of my childhood. I really struggled in certain aspects of my life because of this. However, as of last year my father was released six years early. This is what I consider to be one of the greatest second chances my family has ever been given. Being in prison helped my dad to change and develop himself into the father he is now. With the guidance and wisdom he is now passing onto me, I know that having him around will benefit my future and increase my future success. Not only was his early release a second chance for my father to live his life as a free man sooner, but it was also a second chance for me to have the father-son experience that I needed during this time of my life. I know that the second chance my father has been given will be a part of the key to my future success.

When I was five years old, my little sister was diagnosed with medulloblastoma at the age of two. This is a cancerous tumor located in the brain. This affected my family greatly considering that my mom was raising us with only the help of my grandmother. I was forced to move in with my godfather and then with my grandmother. What was only one year felt like it had been five years. Between my father being in jail, my mom and sister being in the hospital and me living in two different places without them, my life had seemed to be spiraling out of control at only the age of five. However, a year after being diagnosed and fighting through all the hardships, my sister had been cleared of her tumor and was able to go home. This was a major turning point for me and my family. Me, my sister, and my mom could finally go home and be at peace. I place my sister's second chance at the #1 place among the second chances in my life. My sister got a second chance at living life here on earth, my family got a second chance to be whole and happy and I got a second chance at having a sibling. Instead of growing up alone and having to grieve my sister, she is now 11 years old and healthy, and it was all thanks to the second chance she was given.

None of my second chances have been as life changing as the chances my father and sister have been given. However, I too have had my share of second chances. As I have entered my teenage years, I'm beginning to venture off on my own and starting to do things like taking the train and staying out later with my friends. However, newfound freedom can sometimes lead to mistakes. Getting into Archbishop Stepinac High School involved a tremendous amount of hard work and determination for both me and my family. They afforded me the opportunity to go to Stepinac instead of public school despite the fact that doing so would require that they make certain sacrifices. However, we made an agreement: they would work hard to send me to the school of my choice and I would agree to follow the rules, maintain my G.P.A., and work to the best of my ability. Unfortunately, upon gaining more freedom, I made a bad decision. My parents could have easily pulled me out of private school so I could learn from my mistake and feel the true consequence of my actions. However, they decided to give me a second chance and let me continue my time at Stepinac. Knowing I could have forfeited the chance to attend Stepinac has shown me how truly important it is for me to complete this goal. If this opportunity had been taken from me, I probably would have been on the path to self-destruction. Instead, by being given a second chance this situation helped me to put things into perspective and taught me that the decisions I make today are crucial to succeeding tomorrow.

When I saw that the topic of this essay was about giving people second chances, I knew I had to enter. Considering the way our life has benefited from these chances the last decade of my life, my family and I are a true example of the benefits of second chances. My dad, sister and I were all given second chances that not only benefited each of us, but also our family as a whole. In closing, after hearing about my experiences and hardships, I'd like to leave you with my favorite quote by LovaticRD, "Second chances are not given to make things right. They are given to prove that we could be better even after we fall."

## Janilssy Luna White Plains High School

# Heal Janilssy Luna White Plains High School

I was twelve years old when I cut myself for the first time. As the blade slid through my wrist, ecstasy flooded every cell in my body. The neglect and abuse received from my father did not matter. The torn self-esteem caused by my eternal tormentor Vanessa did not matter. Eating all alone feeling like no one in the world would ever want to befriend me did not matter. I felt completely and utterly numb. In that moment I was the only one in control. I finally felt something. I was exhausted from limping through life and self-harm became my crutch.

It is difficult to understand why a twelve year old would want to end her own life. Please understand that when you wake up every morning hating every part of your life and every bone in your body aches from sadness, eternal rest does not seem so bad. I remember the day one of my classmates saw my scars. The school counselor called me into her office and asked me what was going on. I broke. Every bottled up emotion rolled out of my eyes. My parents were called into

school and they took me to the hospital. I wanted to find a hole where I could bury myself in. The woman that had sacrificed so much for me was standing before me wondering where she went wrong. Seeing my mother suffer was heartbreaking. An endless list of therapists, get well soon cards, and I love yous were delivered to me. Shame and regret haunted my soul. Why was this happening to me? I did not recognize the girl in the mirror. I had to do something.

It began with a decision a day but I won my battle against myself. In a moment of desperation faith came to the rescue. Not in something so inconsistent like therapists, family, or any other imperfect human but the unconditional and everlasting love of God. I got baptized and it changed my life. It wasn't drastic and I did not change everything about me in a matter of days, but here now at only fifteen years old I am grateful. Understanding that I am a creation of the mastermind that made the Big Bang explode gave me confidence. Believing that I am so loved that a man would die for me gave me comfort. Acquiring a second family in the body of Christ gave me all the support in the world to understand that I am not alone. Every day since I have been molded like clay by the Holy Spirit. I recognize that every day we are blessed with the gift of life with a purpose.

I do not regret my past or the scars I carry along with it. When I encounter someone who is going through a time of self-loathing I proudly life up my wrists. I made it through this and so can you. Second chances are a prerequisite to change, a catalyst for growth, and a lighthouse for the future. Instead of becoming another statistic I am a living testimony thanks to the second chance at life that I have been gifted. To end a destructive cycle you need a gateway to freedom and a helping hand that can facilitate a new path. Second chances are important because coal must be first put through extreme pressure to become a diamond.

## **Gratitude for Members**

- Peter Roberts, thank you for your leadership with music, choir and youth.
- Maria Campos, thank you for your idea to get a deacon. I'm in conversation with the diocese
- Thank you, Clyde Hicks for your idea to get a seminarian. I'm in conversation with General Seminary.
- Daisy Calderon, thank you for your leadership and in so many ways.
- Marie Barrow, thank you for your wonderful leadership with S.A.G.E.
- Nate Hogan, thank you for all the countless hours and work you do for Buildings and Grounds and the rectory.
- Carlos Munoz, thank you for your financial insight and overall wisdom.
- Eileen McClean, thank you for your passion and support for our music.
- Lauren Reid, thank for your leadership with our youth and acolytes.
- Uriel Reid, thank you for your many years supporting Grace Episcopal Church. You are much loved.
- Daniel Corsanego, thank you for your leadership and support for Grace/La Gracia.

## **Joyce Sampson**

In 1970, Joyce started visiting Grace Church on her lunch hour while working at the County Trust Bank at the corner of Church Street. After attending a Christmas worship, she enjoyed the uplifting service and friendly people and became a member. Joyce joined the choir in 1975 and is still a



member today after almost 44 years.

Joyce engaged in many initiatives at the Church and became a founding member of the Caribbean Ministry that assisted churches in the Caribbean that were in need. She is also a founding member of the Grace Church Community Center (Lifting up Westchester) where she served on the Board of Directors and coordinated the holiday dinners for GCCC for 7 years. She served on the Welcome Committee for several years.

She is currently a lay Eucharistic

minister of the Pastoral Care Committee and has been visiting the sick every Tuesday at White Plains Hospital for over 37 years. She is as a lay reader, a member of the Building and Grounds committee, and volunteers in the church office weekly.

## **A THANKSGIVING REMINDER FROM SCRIPTURE**

"Be at rest once more,
O my soul
For the Lord has been good to you."

Psalm 116:7

## **Advocacy Forum**



Grace Church/La Gracia was fortunate to have four esteemed panelists join us on Sunday, November 3 for a lively discussion on a broad range of topics. Mayor Thomas Roach, County Legislator Alfreda Williams, White Plains Police Chief Joseph Castelli and Sergeant Madelin Cano were our featured speakers. Mayor Roach established that the City of White Plains is tacitly (if not officially) a "sanctuary city" defined by its protection of citizen's rights in all of its interactions. U.S. government officials are never contacted in the case of citizens finding themselves in the custody of the police (he did qualify that anyone committing a crime should not expect to enjoy this protection). County Legislator Williams echoed the mayor's comments by stating that Westchester County shares a similar policy. She further established that there are a number of existing organizations that serve as advocacy resources that would partner well with Grace/La Gracia. Chief Castelli and Sergeant Cano were uniform in creating

a sense of unity that binds the police force with the interests of Grace/La Gracia. Understanding that houses of worship are potential targets for acts of violence, Chief Castelli shared suggestions

for action plans that Grace/La Gracia will likely pursue. Sergeant Cano (who is bilingual) added a layer of openness to the Q&A session as some members in the audience were more comfortable posing questions in their native language. The panel's willingness to stay for the full meeting (and after for some individual conversations) was a solid statement about their commitment to the idea of working with Grace/La Gracia as we move toward growing our advocacy initiative. This was a very productive step that is likely to be followed by more forums (some were suggesting that we take the meetings to the church – rather than the parish hall - to gain a wider audience). The Advocacy Committee will meet in December to plan our strategy for the coming year.

#### **Michael Heffner**



## **Abogacía**

Grace Church/La Gracia tuvo la suerte de contar con cuatro estimados panelistas que se unieron a nosotros el domingo 3 de noviembre para una animada discusión sobre una amplia gama de temas. El alcalde Thomas Roach, el legislador del condado Alfreda Williams, el jefe de policía de White Plains Joseph Castelli y la sargento Madelin Cano fueron nuestros oradores principales. El alcalde Roach estableció que la Ciudad de White Plains es tácitamente (si no oficialmente) una "ciudad santuario" definida por su protección de los derechos de los ciudadanos en todas sus interacciones. Los funcionarios del gobierno nunca son contactados en el caso de ciudadanos que se encuentran bajo la custodia de la policía (él calificó que cualquiera que cometa un delito no debe esperar disfrutar de esta protección). El legislador del condado Williams hizo eco de los comentarios del alcalde al afirmar que el condado de Westchester comparte una política similar. Además, estableció que hay varias organizaciones existentes que sirven como recursos de promoción que se asociarían bien con Grace/La Gracia. El jefe de la Policia Castelli y el sargento Cano coincidieron al crear un sentido de unidad que une a la fuerza policial con los intereses de Grace/La Gracia. Entendiendo que los lugares de culto son objetivos potenciales para actos de violencia, el Jefe de la Policia Castelli compartió sugerencias para planes de acción que Grace/La Gracia probablemente seguirá. La sargento Cano (que es bilingüe) agregó otra la sesión de preguntas y respuestas en español ,ya que algunos miembros de la audiencia se sintieron más cómodos haciendo preguntas en su idioma nativo. La disposición del panel para permanecer en la reunión completa (y después de algunas conversaciones individuales) fue una declaración sólida sobre su compromiso con la idea de trabajar con Grace/La Gracia a medida que avanzamos hacia el crecimiento de nuestra iniciativa de defensa. Este fue un paso muy productivo que probablemente será seguido por más foros (algunos sugirieron que llevemos las reuniones a la iglesia, en lugar del salón parroquial, para tener una más grande audiencia. El Comité de Defensa se reunirá en diciembre para planificar nuestra estrategia para el próximo año.

**Michael Heffner** 

## THE BIBLE EXPLAINED BY KIDS

In our Fall edition, we published some of the ways a group of children (not OUR Sunday School children, of course), retold what they had learned about early Biblical history up through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We continue with their explanation of the Bible up to the beginning of the New Testament.

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-Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

-Then He gave them His top ten commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's bottom (the Bible uses a bad work for bottom that I'm not supposed to say.

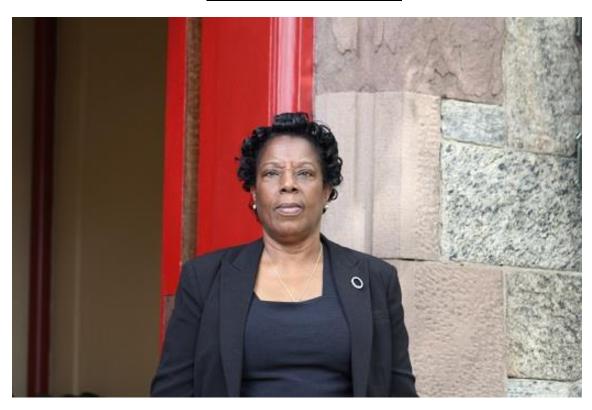
But my Dad uses it sometimes when he talks about the President). Oh yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

- -One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.
- -After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.
- -After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

\_\_\_\_\_

*In our next Angelus edition we will continue with New Testament history.* 

## Cecilia Newland Peagler



In the name of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is a difficult moment for which we are never ready for. If you ask me I would have never thought that I would be one day celebrating Cecilia's memorial service.

When a loved one dies a message is passed unto us and that is that we need to hold tighter, closer to each other. That we need to be willing to forgive and treasure one another more in this place called world.

Nevertheless, our reality is that we are never ready to say goodbye to a loved one. She might be no longer in our physical world but she now lives eternally in the Spiritual world. As a matter of fact she is with us right now smiling and looking at all of us who are here to say goodbye to her.

Brothers and sisters one day we leave the hands of the Lord to come in to this world and there is another day already set beforehand when we need to return to our starting point. Our life is like a candle that is lit up in the wind. If a strong wind comes our way our candles - our lives - will be put out.

We are all visitors to this earth. We are passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love... and then we return home. Nothing we bring into this world and nothing we take back with us

When someone dies lots of questions, a variety of feelings come near us. You may ask yourselves" Why did this happen?" "What should I do?" the answer is: Cry/ reach out to the Lord because He is here for you.

• Hebrews 13:5,6 "...For God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." <sup>6</sup> Let us be bold, then, and say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid".

Some of the words that I can describe Cecilia with are: Generous, hardworking, friendly, caring, and a woman of deep faith.

Cecilia Newland Peagler of Fayetteville, NC transitioned from earth to heaven on Monday, November 11, 2019. Cecilia was born on September 17, 1946 in Colon, The Republic of Panama. She was the daughter of Joyce Newland-Duran.

She went to school in Panama and graduated from Raul Moscote High School. Cecilia migrated from the Republic of Panama to the United States in 1973 seeking a better opportunity for her and her two son Alex and Aaron.

Upon migrating to the United States, Cecilia lived to Trenton, New Jersey to be close to her family before moving to Fayetteville NC where she worked at the Fort Bragg Army Base. In Fayetteville, she was an active member of the St. Joseph Episcopal Church where she served in many capacities. For many years Fayetteville became home for her and her sons Alex and Aaron.

Later in life, Cecilia moved to White Plains, New York to enjoy her life with her extended family and friends. She worked as a home health care aid for over 20 years. In addition to working, Cecilia volunteered daily at Habitat for Humanity and the Rainbow program for handicapped children.

She joined the Grace/La Gracia Episcopal Church where she helped in many ministries and was very active. When not working or volunteering she loved attending family events, dancing, playing bingo, visiting with friends and watching NBA games.

She is preceded in death by her son Alex Newland, mother Joyce Newland-Duran, her brother Herman Parker. Cecilia will be forever cherished in memory by her son Aaron Newland (Gina), sisters Felicia and Mirna, brothers Luis, Braulio and Ricardo, her grandkids Yuri, Tierra, Alex, Denzel, and Jordan two great grandchildren Alex Jr. and Kennedy, uncle, aunts, a hosts of nieces, nephews, cousins and many special friends.

As I come to a close we must remember Jesus words "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." We know that Cecilia was received by Jesus in heaven especially since her last three words before she passed away where "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus", this tells us of the Joyous encounter she had with our Lord.

People of God, life is short. It is pictured as vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away (James 4:14). Therefore, during our time here on earth we are called to reach out to people, to be aware of our surroundings, to be a blessing to someone. We are called to express our feelings to others. Please don't wait until your loved one is dead in order to recognize how much that person meant to you.

Now is the time to express to your wife, husband, children and friends that you love them and that they are important to you. There is a thing about us humans and that is that we need to hear things so don't keep your good feelings toward others to yourself but instead make them known.

Even though this is a sad time for us we must remember Jesus words before he ascended into heaven: "Behold for I am with you all the days until the end of time". Amen.

#### The Rev. Adolfo Moronta

## **Good News at Grace Church**

- Our women's Bible Study (BSF) is going strong and we are now contemplating a new men's Bible Study through another group.
- We have received more than \$20,000 in anonymous donations from members in the last few months.
- We have begun some exciting new church building improvements to include the renovation of our dining hall (floors and walls).
- We're expanding on our 10 AM Youth Sunday Services.
- We're building on our Advocacy work, partnering with others in the White Plains community.

- With the leadership of Michael Heffner, we're live streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday worship service through Facebook and therefore reaching 100 new viewers.
- We can now donate to Grace Church through our website on-line. (Call the office for directions).
- We are planning some fantastic events for the Christmas season with Lessons and Carols, Advent Adult Education, The Requiem, and some great Christmas Eve services.
- We are planning some Fun Events after the New Year. See Fun Survey article in this edition of the Angelus.



## **Thank You Irene Alves**

Irene, we cannot adequately thank you enough for all that you've done for Grace Church and for so many years. You have been a leader in so many ways. You've been on vestry, as you are currently. You have been our warden. You have been a great eye for our finances. You have been very engaged in our education programs, young and mature. You have been an amazing supporter and leader with Grace Community Center, now Lifting Up Westchester. Simply put, we cannot thank you enough for all you've done for Grace Episcopal Church.

## **Thank You Joe Gallo**

Joe, it is difficult to measure the number of ways that you have helped, supported and led in the ministries at Grace Episcopal Church. You've utilized your management and financial skills in your business to enhance our ministries here in this parish. You've been on the vestry. You've been a warden as you are now. You've helped teach our youth. You're on the board for Lifting Up Westchester. I'm simply unable to adequately list all that you've done. In the end, we thank you for your passionate support of our parish and your countless efforts in stewardship time, talent and treasure.



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

## **Fun Survey from The Rector**

Occasionally, we need to do something for the sake of having fun. So, I'm going to share a few ideas here in this article. I want you to tell us which ones in which you'd participate. It could be one or all of them. I'm asking that you email or call our administrator and let us know which ones you'd participate in. We will follow up on the choices with most support.

- 1. **Mardi Gras Celebration** (February 25 evening potluck)
- We gather for a Mardi Gras style meal with pancakes and Louisiana style food.
- 2. **River Boat Excursion** (a day or evening in July or August 2020)
- We gather for a Hudson River dinner cruise.
- 3. **Pentecost Crazy** (evening near Pentecost May 31)
- We celebrate with our youth games, pizza and a movie in our dining hall.
- 4. **St. Pat's Sunday** (Sunday near March 17)

  Members wear green. Green is everywhere. We have green cake and green beverage.
- 5. Valentines Date Night (evening near Valentine's Day Feb. 14)
- All couples join Fr. Chip for a special service at church and followed with finger food/beverages.

## A (TRUE) CHRISTMAS STORY By Mary Baker

"Twas the Night Before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" - - - - - and then the phone rang!!

Since I said this is a <u>true</u> story, I have to tell you that it wasn't actually "the night before Christmas." It was the "night before Christmas Eve," very early in the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> of December six years ago.

Out of a deep sleep I answered my phone. It was my brother. He was frantically calling to ask me to meet him in the ER of the Stamford Hospital. His beloved wife had suffered a massive and fatal brain aneurysm as she lay beside him in bed. All he was able to tell me was that the hospital is at Exit 3 on Route 95 North. I had never before been to that hospital, but, thank heavens for those blue and white "H" signs that I followed to get there in record time.

At that point, our family's "Merry Christmas to All" was blown right out of the water. No one could carry on as usual! It was a terrible, sad holiday for all of us. We still think of it every year. For a number of years afterwards, my brother made sure he was somewhere out of the country at this holiday. At his request, I stopped sending him a Christmas card or getting him a gift.

The Christmas holidays are not a happy time for all! It doesn't take much imagination for us to think about the depressing issues endured by many around us. Misery doesn't take a holiday. And it can be doubly sad when those who are suffering are surrounded by gaily decorated trees, brightly colored lights, and houses all aglow with holiday decorations. Every store has cheerful holiday songs being played. There are parties to attend, family gatherings, and presents to give and receive.

For those in any kind of distress, it can make the misery seem even worse, maybe even unbearable. It might be enough to make you want to "leave the country," if only figuratively.

We cannot "fix" all (maybe <u>any</u>) of these problems. But it might be a small beginning to be aware of those around us and what they might be going through. Prayer always helps since, in prayer, God may be speaking to us about particular ways we could ease someone's suffering. If we open our minds and souls to God, He will let us know what we might be able to do.

It might just start with being aware that the colors of the Christmas season are not always red and green. Sometimes the color is blue.

## Senior Warden's Report

As we move into the holiday season of Christmas, I hope this letter finds everyone in good health (and wellbeing). As we conclude another year. The following are some items that I hope you consider informative.

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

Through the generosity of the Bedell Fund, we have received a significant grant to do building improvements to the rectory and the church property. Please see the Buildings and Grounds report for more detail. Many thanks to all involved, especially Father Chip in securing the funds to perform several projects that have been put off for some time.

#### The Organ

We all appreciate the music that has been blessed to us by Peter Roberts and our magnificent organ. The Vestry has established a fund for the future renovations of the organ. These funds have been segregated from all other funds. In the spirit of looking to the future, all future contributions for the organ renovations will continue to be segregated and held for the renovations. Annual maintenance and upkeep of the organ will come from operations capital and not this fund. Hopefully over the next three years, we will accumulate the funds for the renovations previously

designated by the organ committee chaired by William Biles. Many thanks to Bill for his continued overseeing of this asset.

#### The Parish Elevator

The elevator is now fully operational, thank you again to Mr. Cappelli. If you see him, please show your appreciation. Mr. Cappelli also has agreed to continue as an advisor to Grace on an ongoing basis on any building issues, free of charge. This is great support to Grace.

#### **Finances**

This is the one area that continues to be a challenge. Father Graves and I had a forum on the status of out finances. The Vestry has committed to constantly evaluate the budget vs actual results. Many cost savings initiatives have been instituted. We are working with our bank (M&T Bank) to get a 1.5% payback on all charges placed through our credit facility at no cost to Grace. Our portfolio continues to grow even though we have used funds to cover our operating expense deficit. Several expenses out of our control continue to increase, such as the assessment from the diocese. The Vestry is committed to having a break-even budget within the next three years.

#### **Diocese Convention**

At this year's convention, several historic issues came up that are very relevant in today's circumstances. A resolution from the 1800's was resurrected whereby the convention passed a resolution for the Church to acknowledge its responsibilities from the slave trade and to examine the avenues for restitution such as college grants to needy students. In this light, the diocese has committed \$ 1.2 million towards this effort. Please realize Grace is part of this as the diocese portfolio belongs to all churches in the diocese. (The delegates also voted to request the Archbishop of Canterbury to recognize all partners of clergy irrespective of sexuality.). These were the major issues resolved.

As you can imagine, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. I assure you we are making every effort to move 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 look forward to a continued healthy, 2020. 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

## The Angelus

Quarterly Newsletter of Grace Church (914) 949-2874 www.gracewhiteplains.org

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

Editors: Mary Baker and Michael Heffner

Contributors: Joseph Gallo, Karen Odom, Mary Baker, Irene Alves, George O'Hanlon, Michael Heffner, The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves, Charlotte Roberson, The Rev. Adolfo Moronta, Sylvia Simon, Peter Roberts, Walter Simon, Barbara Biles, Nikolas O'Hanlon

Distributor: Maria Campos

## Staying in Touch with our Youth Attending College

The Committee designed a beautiful keychain for each of our college students and sent the letter below. Sam Brown was already putting the gift to good use!



GRACE Episcopal Church 33 Church Street White Plains, N.Y. 10601

Fr. Chip Graves, Rector Fr. Adolfo Moronta, Associate Priest

| I | <b>Dear</b> |  |
|---|-------------|--|
|   |             |  |

By now you have settled in your dorm or commute to class.

You are making new friends and suddenly find a new independence.

Change is hard but it makes you stronger.

We want you to know that we miss you, and continually pray for you and your success. It is almost Thanksgiving and we hope that if you are returning home for the holidays you will come visit us.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace ..." Romans 15: 13

Blessings,

The Grace Church Vestry Joe Gallo, Senior Warden Michael Heffner, Junior Warden

PS. Enclosed please find an engraved keychain

**Submitted by Irene Alves** 



## **Coffee Hour Update Questions and Answers**

## What was the problem with Coffee Hour?

In prior years, one or two people assisted the coffee hour hosts. We found there were an insufficient number of people assisting. This made it difficult for Welcome Members.

## How was the assist structure changed?

We met with parishioners during the summer and asked people to sign up to assistance teams. We now have four to five members on a team for each Sunday. Thus, providing sufficient assistance.

We also have a mini coffee hour after 8 o'clock service at Fr Chip's request which he coordinates with Taurino.

## Since you have so many welcome members on each team, why do you need coffee hour hosts?

We simply can't afford to buy all the items for coffee hour each week. We supply coffee, sugar, cups, tablecloths etc. We have a limited budget. So, we can only pay

for special coffee hours, (i.e. Graduate Recognition). We do get some donations weekly. We use them to purchase "missing items" as needed.

## How much do the items for coffee hour cost?

It depends on what the host wants to supply but it needn't be elaborate. (Spreads for bagels, milk, juice and cookies for children are sufficient.)

## What if no one volunteers to host?

Unfortunately, we may have to cancel coffee hour.

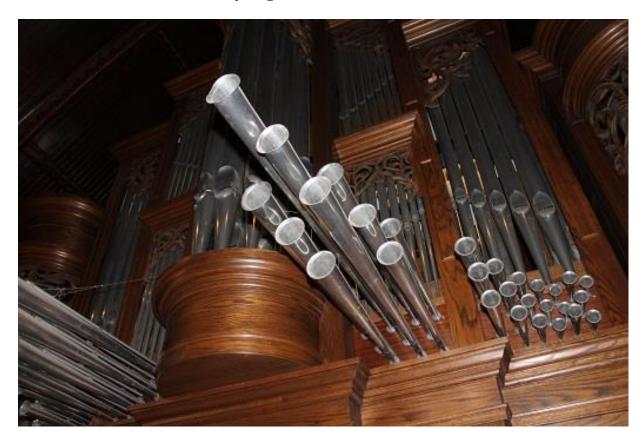
## What do you want parishioners to do?

- Please volunteer to host one Sunday.
- Please take time to come to coffee hour each Sunday
- Please take the time to enjoy coffee and conversation and to welcome visitors to share coffee with the Grace Church family.

Submitted by Sylvia Simon

## **Next Steps for the Grace Church Organ**

**By Organist Peter Roberts** 



I would like to update the congregation on to the status of the project to begin the renovation of our beautiful Guilbault-Therien organ here at Grace Church.

This lovely instrument, installed in 1989, by the French-Canadian firm Guilbault –Therien consists of four manuals or keyboards, a pedal board, and includes over 2,000 pipes. Built to play a wide variety of music from different time periods and musical genres, since its installation, it has been used to inspire worship and praise. However, due to age and usage, the organ suffers from a number of serious issues, including the sticking of manual keys, unreliable notes, and buckling pipes. The instrument also needs to be cleaned.

The time has come to renovate the organ to ensure the instrument will continue to inspire worshipers in the years and decades to come. The church is taking steps to begin an important evaluation process to restore the instrument.



The church has received two evaluations from reputable organ builders outlining the work that needs to be done. The vestry, Fr. Chip, and the organ committee will meet to consider the two proposals and determine a plan of action to go forward with the renovation.

To pay for the costly renovation, several fund-raising options are being explored, including holding choir concerts and inviting guest musicians to perform. I would like to thank members of the congregation who have already donated to the organ restoration fund. Their generosity and commitment are greatly appreciated and has not gone unnoticed.

I look forward to continuing to update the congregation on the progress and status of our organ campaign and renovation plans.

"O praise ye the lord! All things that give sound each jubilant chord reecho around; loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone, and sweet harp the story of what he hath done."

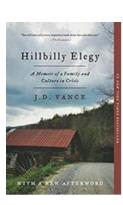
Hymn: O Praise Ye the Lord

## **Grace Church Book Club**

The Book Club's Next Read!

Join the Book Club in exploring **Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis** by J.D. Vance, a compelling personal story of the working class in Appalachia that also helps explain the appeal of Donald Trump. Book Club members will review this selection on Tuesday, Dec 10, in the church library.

Submitted by Karen Odom (karenodom@yah



## **Buildings and Grounds Great News and Future Challenges**

#### **Capital Projects**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to work to improve the church and the rectory. The major problem has always been finding the funds to pay for needed capital improvements. After the initial investment of funds by the Vestry and the subsequent generosity of parishioners, partners and friends of Grace/LaGracia, we were able to finally start the process of major capital investments. These projects included painting the interior and exterior of the rectory, replacing the windows, roof repairs and eliminating water seeping into the basement. Capital products for the sanctuary/parish hall building included repairing the elevator, refurbishing the stained-glass windows and landscaping the grounds with the Walk of Grace Funds.

Working with the Bedell Foundation for over a year culminated in a formal presentation to their Broad. Our presentation led by Fr. Chip was positively received. Consequently, we are pleased to report that the Bedell Fund awarded Grace/LaGracia \$100,400 for capital improvements for the rectory and our sanctuary/parish hall building. This funding will accelerate our efforts to adequately fund needed capital projects.

Funded projects for the rectory include:

- 1. Updating the kitchen and bathrooms.
- 2. Installation of a lawn sprinkler system.
- 3. New asphalt driveway.
- 4. Leveling the lawn.

Funded projects for the Sanctuary/Parish Hall Building

- 1. New floor vents in the sanctuary
- 2. Refurbishing the parish hall.

Building on the generous funding of the Bedell Fund and the close working relationship with LUW, the latter received \$66,000 in government funds to replace the heating and AC unit on a newly applied roof over Samaritan House. In addition, LUW applied for State funding to replace the roof over the Samaritan House dormitory. Special thanks to Anahaita Kotval for initiating this innovative approach to securing Government Funds.

LUW also received funds to:

- 1. Completely refurbish Samaritan House, including a new kitchen, floors, panting the premises and some new furniture.
- 2. Provided Grace's Kitchen with a new commercial dishwasher. The old unit, still in good working condition, was donated to St. Bart's Soup Kitchen.

Despite of these achievements, funding additional capital projects remains a major challenge, some of which are the refurbishing the organ and pews and the replacement of the stove in Grace's kitchen.

#### **Operational Cost Reductions and Additional Income**

Parishioner Wayne Elliott, the proprietor of Case Consulting Group, worked with Michael Heffner and Maria Campos and migrated our phone operational system to the "cloud" (off site centralized computers). As a result, we anticipate annual saving of approximately \$6,000. With the support and approval of the Vestry, the former unused office of the Director of Music, was rented to the Catholic Downey Chase Children Adoption Agency for their Westchester based administrator. Annual income is projected at \$5,000 to \$6,000.

These positive results are credited to the hard work and commitment of many, the Vestry, led by the Rector, Fr. Chip, the Wardens, Joe Gallo and Mike Heffner, the Parish Administrator Maria Campos, Wayne Elliott, of Case Consulting, Anahaita Kotval of LUW, Louis Cappelli, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and most of all, the generosity and support of Grace/LaGracia parishioners. However, in spite of the funds raised for capital projects and the progress made to improve our operational budget, Grace/LaGracia continues to rely on the financial support and generosity of parishioners to help overcome future capital needs and the current operational budget deficit.

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Bill Biles -Organ Arlene Grant- Walk of Grace Nate Hogan - Vice Chairman Walter Simon -Chairman Joyce Sampson- Insurance Bob Soso – Security Teri Surgent – Maintenance Projects

Submitted by Walter Simon on behalf of Buildings and Grounds



#### STACE CHOROLICITO

## POINSETTIAS

#### For Sale

The Poinsettia is a culturally and commercially important plant indigenous to Mexico and Central America. The Aztecs used the plant to produce red dye and as an antipyretic medication.

The plant's association with Christmas began in 16<sup>th</sup>-century Mexico, where legend tells of a girl who was too poor to provide a gift for the Celebration of JESUS' birthday and was inspired by an angel to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds and became beautiful poinsettias. The 17<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan friars in Mexico included the plants in their Christmas celebrations.

The star-shaped leaf is said to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem, and the red color represents the blood sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus [ In Puerto Rico, Spain, Guatemala and other Central American countries it is known as Flor de Pascua or Pascua, meaning Easter flower ].

Poinsettias are widely used as Christmas decorations in homes, churches and offices. In the United States, December 12<sup>th</sup> is National Poinsettia Day.

The GRACE CHURCH CHOIR is taking orders for Poinsettias for delivery on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15th for \$15.00 each to help defray the cost of the Music Program. These beautiful plants will enhance your home or make a wonderful Holiday Gift.

To place an order, please contact:

ANY MEMBER of THE CHOIR

or Sign-Up on the Order Sheet Posted on The Parish Hall Bulletin Board



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

#### Reported by George O'Hanlon

It has been a busy first half of the year for our Sunday School at Grace Church. We wish to start by thanking our leader, Donna Louis, for her valuable work for the first part of the year, and wish her well as she continues her recovery from surgery. The Grace Church Sunday School program starts with our Pre-Kindergarteners, and continues through high school. We are proud that several



of our current high schoolers have been active in the program since they were very young. As evidence, you will recognize several current J2A members in the elementary classroom pictures of our annual Christmas pageant, taken many years ago! Our program objective is to provide Christian education which interesting, relevant and enjoyable to each of our class members. accomplish this goal through a variety of activities consistent with the age of our students – be it arts and crafts for

our youngest class members, to service activities and social activities for our high schoolers. A highlight for this Sunday School year has been our fall bread baking event, in which the students from all of our classes work together to bake communion bread from scratch. As a result of the combined efforts of our classes, we will have enough baked communion bread for many weeks to come. Another popular event was our annual bowling outing for Rite 13 and J2A, attended not just by our students and teachers, but also by Father Chip (who more than held his own in this friendly competition). In addition to acolyting, ushering and participating in the choir, we are also encouraging our Rite 13 and J2A members to take a more active role in the monthly family service, which you may well have already observed. As of the writing of this article, our classes have

begun preparations for our annual Christmas Pageant, which has always been a highlight of our Sunday School year. We thank the Grace Church Congregation for their ongoing support of our Sunday School Programs.

Grace La Gracia Bulletin Calendar January 2020 – April 2020



Weekly Tuesdays & Thursday at Noon – The Holy Eucharist in Chapel Wednesdays at 12:10 PM DTM at Grace 9/18/19 through 5/ 27/20

• (No DTM concerts on 1/1/20 or 2/26/20 Ash Wednesday)

Wednesdays at 1:30 PM SAGE Meeting – Library 10/2/19 through 6/3/20 Wednesdays at 7:15 PM BSF Study – Library

Wednesdays at 3PM to 6PM Ada's Outreach – Parish Hall 9/18/19 to 6/24/20 Thursdays at 7:30 PM – La Gracia Santa Eucharistia

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Every Month at 7:30 PM La Gracia Leaders Meeting – Church & Library

4th Tuesday of Every Month - Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM in the library

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Every Month Rite One Liturgy at 8 AM Service

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Every Month - Family Service at 10:00 AM

4th Sunday of Every Month - Healing Service 9/2019 to 1/2020

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## January 2020

Monday, January 1st

• Parish Office Closed

#### Sunday, January 5th

- 8:00 AM & 10 AM Rite Two Liturgy, 12:30 PM La Gracia
- City of WP Parking Permits Distributed by Stewardship
- Distribution of gifts at 10 AM & 12:30 PM Services to all Grace La Gracia children- Three Kings Day
- 11:30 AM Teacher's Meeting with Fr. Chip Library

## Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

- The ECW Holiday Party (Outside Venue TBD)
- LUW Shoe Drive TBD 1/10/20 or 1/17/20

## Saturday, January 11th

• 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Confirmation Class with Fr. Chip - Library

## Sunday, January 12th

- 8:00 AM Rite I / 10 AM Rite II Liturgy
- Fx3 Meeting after 10 AM service Parlor
- 11:30 AM Teacher/Parent Reception with Fr. Chip Library

## Wednesday, January 15th

• Deadline for Submissions to Spring Angelus

## Saturday, January 18th

• 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Confirmation Class with Fr. Chip - Library

## Sunday, January 19th

- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting Library
- Meet the Vestry Candidates after 8 AM & 10 AM Services

## Monday, January 20th

Martin Luther's King Day Community Lunch Hosted by Grace Volunteers

Parish Office Closed

## Sunday, January 26th Bilingual Service at 9:30 AM

- Annual Parish Meeting- After Service/ Election/ Distribution of Annual Report
- Annual Meeting attended by J2A; Game Day sponsored by Rite 13

#### Tuesday, January 28th

Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM -Library

## February 2020

## Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 8:00 AM & 10 AM Rite Two Liturgy, 12:30 PM La Gracia
- Black History Month / Readings & Spirituals (Marie Barrow & Karen Odom)
- ECW will distribute UTO boxes and envelopes during coffee hour (Melanie Jackson)

## Wednesday, Feb. 5th

SAGE Meeting at 1:30 PM in library

## Sunday, February 9th

- 8:00 AM Rite I / 10 AM Rite II Liturgy
- Black History Month/ Reflections

## Sunday, February 16th

- Valentine's Day Renewal TBD
- Black History Month/ Meaningful Expressions
- Family Service-ALL in Church -Presidents' Weekend/Midwinter Vacation
- 11:30 AM Prep for Rite 13 Liturgy: Parents & Celebrities meet with Priest
- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting Library

## Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

- President's Day Parish Office Closed
- President's Day Community Lunch Hosted by Grace Volunteers

## Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Black History Month / Spreading Joy
- Fx3 Pre-Lent Sundae Sunday in Parish Hall during Coffee Hour
- Rite 13 Celebration Insert in Grace La Gracia Bulletins

## Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM – Library

## March 2020

• Every Friday in March at 7:30 PM La Gracia Estación del Viacrucis

## Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> The First Sunday in Lent- The Great Litany

- 8:00 AM & 10 AM Rite Two Liturgy & 12:30 La Gracia
- Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Party- Suggest 3/1/19 Coffee Hour TBD
- Grace Church Book of Wisdom for Rite 13 Form Insert in Bulletins & All Media
- Post Holy Week Schedule in all Grace La Gracia Bulletins & Media
- Parking Place cards for Holy Week to be distributed
- Post "Bring A Friend" Campaign in all media
- UTO Campaign in all Bulletins & Media
- 4:30 PM DTM Concert Church from 3PM & Parish Hall from 4:30 (Reception)

#### Wednesday, March 4th

- Ashes to Go WP Train Station & Grace Front Yard
- Ash Wednesday Worship Services 7:30 AM, 12:00 PM English/ 7:30 PM Bilingual

## Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> The Second Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Rite I / 10 AM Rite II Liturgy
- Sign up Parishioners for Passion Play after services

#### Saturday, March 14th

• St. Patrick's Day Parade in WP / Street Closures

## Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> The Third Sunday of Lent St. Pat's Sunday (Green Out)

- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting Library
- Fx3 Meeting after 10 AM Service Library

## Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 1:PM – Library

## Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> The Fourth Sunday of Lent

- Completed Contribution Forms for Book of Wisdom/ Donna Louis
- 11:30 AM Rite 13 Shop & Assemble Easter Baskets for ECW Raffle

## Tuesday, March 24th

• Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM – Library

## Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> The Fifth Sunday of Lent

- Rite 13 Celebration at 10 AM Service
- ECW Selling Spring Raffle Tickets during Coffee Hour
- Preparing for Easter / Spring Parish Clean up Volunteers Needed

## April 2020 Holy Week

#### Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

- Palm Sunday 8 AM & 10 AM Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palm
- Passion Play at 10 AM Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School Palm Sunday Procession, No Classes
- Gathering at Renaissance Park (adjacent to Grace -Call Steven Botundo at Capellini's office)
- 12:30 La Gracia La Santa Eucaristía y Domingo de Ramos

#### Thursday, April 9th

Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Bilingual Service with Choir

#### Friday, April 10th

- 4:00 PM Stations of The Cross
- Good Friday Liturgy 12:00 PM(Noon) with Choir
- 7:00 PM La Gracia Viernes Santo

#### Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 PM Easter Vigil / Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil of Easter Bilingual Service with Choir
- Community Easter Dinner Ada Raiford Hosted by Samaritan House

#### Sunday, April 12th Easter

- 8 AM Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 AM Festive Holy Eucharist with Choir
- No Classes Sunday School, Rite 13 & J2A
- ECW Easter Basket Drawing during Coffee Hour
- 12:30 PM La Gracia Domingo de Pascua Misa Parish Hall (1PM to 5PM)

## Monday, April 13th

• Parish Office Closed (Following Easter Sunday))

## Thursday, April 16th

• LUW Oasis of Hope Gala

## Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 2nd Sunday of Easter

- 12:30 PM La Gracia The Festival of Divine Mercy
- "Walk of Grace" Forms in all Media
- 11:45 AM ECW Meeting Library
- 12:30 PM Fiesta de la Misericordia

## Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

• Fx3 "Parent's Night Out"

## Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

- Insert Episcopal Charities Letter and Envelopes in Both Bulletins
- 12:30 PM La Gracia "Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia"
- 4:30 PM DTM Concert Church from 3PM & Parish Hall from 4:30 (Reception)

## Tuesday, April 28th

- Vestry Meeting at 7:00 PM Library
- 12:30 PM La Gracia Domingo de Pascua Misa en español

## **Downtown Music at Grace**

DTM is wrapping up the first half of its 32nd season of performances. The quality and diversity of the programming has been consistent with the rich history of this series. Downtown Music is a treasured component of all that Grace Church has to offer to our broader community. Wednesday's at noon. All are welcome.

The extracts below are from the Downtown Music website.

Through its signature program, the Noonday Getaway Concerts, Downtown Music at Grace thrills audiences with a rich array of concerts performed by many of the New York area's finest professional musicians. The concerts, presented in the centrally located, acoustically superb setting of Grace Episcopal Church, are offered from September through May. Each concert attracts a multicultural, intergenerational audience of between 100 and 140 people.

You do not need to be a classical music buff to enjoy the simple delight of arriving at this small, landmark church with wonderful acoustics, taking your seat, and allowing the music to wash over you. A true escape from the rigors and unwanted noise of our lives."

Joshua Worby,Executive Director,Westchester Philharmonic

Submitted by Michael Heffner

