



# Grace News

“Making God’s Kingdom Real for All!”

Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC

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Rev. John M. Graham, Rector

Jan.-Feb. 2010

## Update on Diocesan News

On January 29th and 30th, 2010, Rev. John Graham, Sally Stanfield and I will proudly represent Grace Church at the 115th Convention of the Diocese of Washington, to be held at the National Cathedral. In preparation Sally and I attended a Regional Assembly in late November, where the Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane provided his Bishop's Report. Bishop Chane talked about how the Diocese is undergoing "drastic change" as our composition and demography represents a growth in diversity due to high numbers of immigrants. Most of the influx has come from western and southern Africa, as well as Central America, resulting in a more diverse Diocese that looks more like the full breadth of the Anglican Communion.

As an example, in 2002 the Diocese only had one Spanish speaking congre-

gation, whereas now we have seven. The Bishop pointed out that attendance numbers are not growing, but rather we've seen a growth in diversity. The Bishop also spoke about how the economic downturn has forced the Diocesan staff to release seven employees for 2010, but he counseled us to remember the abundance with which God has blessed us.

The program speaker was the Rev. Robert Gallagher, who taught us the "organizational life cycle" of a parish and helped us plot our own church on this cycle. Sally and I easily agreed that Grace Church is very fortunate to be in the "Maturity" stage. I think most will agree that the wisdom of Fr John, the strength of our Vestry, and the dedication of our laypeople has put us on solid footing for the future. Still, it's important never to

become complacent and slip into "Static Maturity" or "Decline." Sally and I walked away with several ideas and resources about how to keep our parish strong. We would be happy to speak with anyone who is interested.

During the Diocesan Convention the three of us will network with other parish delegates, vote on nominees for various Diocesan committees, and adopt the 2010 budget, among other items. Between now and then, please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions about the Convention, would like to see the draft 2010 budget, or have any concerns that you would like us to represent on behalf of Grace Church. We look forward to being your eyes, ears, and voice at the Convention, and we promise to provide you a full readout when it's concluded.

*Steve Scharre*

## 2010

### FRIENDS OF GRACE GALA

The highlight of Grace Church's social calendar is upon us once again. 2010 is sure to be the best Friends of Grace Gala yet!

We're looking for committee members and Great Escapes Auction donations to support this special event which raises money for the Saving Grace Fund.

Saving Grace allows us to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds. The cold sanctuary on January 3, and the new heaters installed the following week, remind us how important this fund is!

If you can help, please email Elizabeth Hill [elizhill7@gmail.com](mailto:elizhill7@gmail.com)

# What Going On at Grace?

## **Grace's Cafe**

Saturdays in January, 11 a.m. till 2:30 p.m.

See article on this month-long expansion of Grace's Table on page 3 of this newsletter. Many thanks to the Outreach Committee for covering the Café's expenses.

## **Jazz Vespers**

Sunday, January 24, at 5 p.m.

Evening Prayers, featuring Blues Alley Youth Orchestra members performing selections from Duke Ellington's sacred music compositions; in the sanctuary.

## **Diocesan Convention**

Friday and Saturday, January 29 and 30

Grace delegates: Steven Scharre, Sally Stanfield and John Graham

See article on page 1 of this newsletter

## **Fat Sunday**

Sunday, February 14: the last Sunday before Lent, and Valentine's Day to boot Festive Brunch after 10:30 service; plans include "prepared to order" crepes and a dessert cook-off. Music from the Blues Alley Youth Orchestra All-Star Combo. Donations to the Grace Outreach Committee especially welcome at this event.

## **Ash Wednesday**

February 25

Services at 12:15 and 6:30 p.m.

## **Lenten Evening Prayer and Reflection Group**

Begins Sunday, February 21, and continues on Sundays throughout Lent

Evening Prayer, 5 p.m.; homilies by Grace members

Reflection Group, 5:30 – 6:30; theme: Poems of Repentance and Forgiveness (suggestions welcome!)

## **20s-30s-40s Events**

### **January Pub Quiz Night**

At December's PQN we came in 5<sup>th</sup> – this time we're IN IT TO WIN IT!! The 20s/30s/40s group is hitting up Ireland's Four Fields (formerly the Four Provinces) on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm for its renowned Pub Quiz Night. 3412 Connecticut Avenue NW.

Nearest Metro: Cleveland Park. Under 21 is OK, but you must ask for Elizabeth Hill's table at the door. Questions? Email [GraceChurchDC@gmail.com](mailto:GraceChurchDC@gmail.com)

**20s/30s/40s Bible Study** will officially launch January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Rose Room! The Bible Study will take place monthly and focus on topics particularly relevant to our age group. January 25<sup>th</sup>'s topic, "What Does God Expect from Us as Adults?", will focus on what responsibilities we have, as Christians, when we move from child to adulthood. Future topics may include: "How does our Faith guide our careers?" "Child-Parent Relations: From Caretaker to CareGiver" "Transitioning Friendships: When our Friends Begin to Get Married and Have Kids" Wine will be served!

# Lighting a Lamp: From the Vestry

*“No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.” Luke 8:16*

The year 2010 arrives with good news from Grace Church’s pledge campaign. Thanks to the inspiring work of our stewardship committee and your wholehearted response, Grace Church has set another record in total dollars pledged and is approaching our highest number of individual pledges ever. To date, we’ve received 93 pledges totaling more than \$288,000 in support of the church’s operation. We saw increased giving by more than a third of members with a history of pledging, 13 brand new pledges, and important increases in our mid-level givers pledging \$1,000 to \$3,000 annually.

It is a humbling achievement for Grace to have its sixth record setting pledge campaign in a row, particularly in the current economic climate. It has allowed our 2010 budget not only to keep Grace going, but to increase our staff pay, add to our operational budget, and make a host of funding improvements to our ministries. For example, our first weekend spiritual retreat, scheduled for Friday through Saturday, October 29-30, has been budgeted to support participation for only \$85 per person, a 40 percent discount from the facility’s \$140 fee and covering all meals, lodging, and the expenses of our retreat facilitator, the retired Rev. Frank Wade.

On behalf of the Vestry, I offer my thanks to our stewardship committee, my appreciation to all of you, and invite each of us to share a prayer of thanks for the support we’ve found in the Grace community.

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I’m also happy to report that the final tally is in for 2009’s Taste of Georgetown. This event raised \$26,459 for Georgetown Ministry Center, up from \$22,788 in 2008. Many thanks to **Catherine Aselford** and **Grace volunteers**, and to **Fahrenheit**, **Mie ‘N’ Yu** and **Filomena**, which donated Taste revenue directly to GMC—in Filomena’s case, 100%.

In Christ,

*Scott Murphy, Senior Warden*

## Grace’s Café

Almost nobody likes January. The holidays seem like ancient history, the cold’s gotten into our bones, and spring is a long way away. To relieve a little bit of the gloom, especially for our homeless friends, we’re hosting Grace’s Café on Saturdays in January. A warm-stay adjunct to Grace’s Table, the Café will offer music before and after our traditional 11:30 a.m. meal and Bible study, and workshops led by Grace members from 1 to 2 p.m. Each Café will wrap up with coffee, tea, cookies - and door prizes!

Here’s the music lineup: January 2 - Sarah Haft, keyboard and Diana Martin, flute (classics, showtunes and more); January 9 - Frédéric Yonnet, harmonica and Eli Staples, keyboard (jazz and blues); January 16 - Donal Leace, guitar and vocals (folk and blues); January 23 - Marshall Keys, alto sax and Herman Burney, bass (jazz standards); January 30 - Steve Herberman, jazz guitar

Join us for great music, from 11 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 1. Stay for lunch and Bible study if you like, but please brown-bag it. Grace’s Table cooks have more than enough to do just feeding our homeless guests! Workshops include: **Knitting** - Sally Stanfield and Susan Tobias; **Drawing** - Jonathan Jones; Writing - **Brandel France de Bravo** (poetry) and **Mary Carolyn Voght** (prose), with individualized help from Susan Tobias; Faith Seeking Understanding (spiritual formation) - **Beth Frank**.  
*Judie Storandt and John Graham*

# Grace's Christmas Pageant

*Sunday, December 13, 2009*

