



Grace News

“Making God’s Kingdom Real for All!”

Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC

202-333-7100; www.gracedc.org

Rev. John M. Graham, Rector

June 2010 issue

“Uncorked: A Vineyard Affair”

The 2010 Friends of Grace Gala was a night to remember. Not only did we raise over \$22,000 for the Saving Grace Fund (exceeding our goal of \$20,000), but we had a great time doing it! Guests enjoyed a rustic Italian buffet with everything from anti-pasto to canolli and to wash it down, we had a selection of Italian wines hand-picked by our friends at Bacchus Wine Cellar. An expert from Bacchus Wine Cellar led guests in a tasting of five wines from various regions in Italy. The favorite was the 2006 Conti Speroni Barbaresco. We also offered olive oil tasting from around the world – Greece, California, Palestine (a souvenir brought back by Sally Stanfield and David Crawford) and Morocco were represented; Morocco wound up being the favorite.

Music by Anita’s

Jazz Hat highlighted the evening. The talented trio wowed guests and got a few on their dancing feet. For those who like a challenge, we had a bocce ball tournament in the Parish Hall (on Astroturf as rain threatened!). Almost none of the guests had ever played bocce ball, but we ended up with some fierce competition in the playoffs. In addition, we had Bottle Ring Toss. For \$5 guests had three tries at landing a ring on a bottle of wine or sparkling lemonade. The dynamic duo of the evening was Margaret and Drew Davis who won on every toss!

As always, our Legendary Great Escapes Auction was a huge hit. We had several new vacation homes in Florida listed as well as favorites like Lucca, Block Island, Leila’s famous homemade cinnamon rolls and a sailing trip for six. Thanks to the support of

our friends, Georgetown neighbors and generous parishioners it was a fabulous evening.

Thank you especially to Sponsors Tom and Kay Horst, Terry and Patricia Murphy, Sarah Haft, Judie and Peter Storandt, Georgetown Montessori School, Drew and Margaret Davis, Russ and Shirley Davis, Will and Sharon Ollison, Rosalie Cornelius, Clyde’s Group, Charles Gnaedinger, and Larry Hammerling, and to Anita’s Jazz Hat Band, Matters of Taste Caterers, Bacchus Wine Cellar, and Luis Solares. Special gratitude to Committee members Helen Buhr, Jane Mosbacher, Scott Murphy, Janet Sale and Paige Hill.

Elizabeth Hill

++++
And a big **Thank you** from all of us to Committee Chair Elizabeth!
JMG

SAVING GRACE

This special fund allows us to make capital improvements to our buildings and grounds, and to undertake major maintenance projects, some of them long-deferred. The Spring Friends of Grace Gala is the principal source of revenue for this fund. Since the 2009 Gala, Saving Grace funds were used to replace failing convector units in the sanctuary (\$23,000) and to secure aging trees and remove a dying one (\$4,000). The convector installation is a work in progress, but will ultimately provide us with reliable heat and air conditioning for many years. Fierce winter blizzards did not blow a single limb off of secured trees.

This year’s Gala revenues of over \$22,000 won’t quite replenish the \$27,000 spent since last year’s event, but we came pretty close. Great work, troops.

Paul Alligood, Junior Warden

What Going On at Grace?

Sundays in the Summertime

Holy Eucharist at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Adult Forum and Choir both take a break, resuming in September.

New 5 p.m. Sunday Service

Beginning June 6, 2010, we offer an informal Eucharist on Sundays at 5 pm, with assisting priest Rev. Nancy James as principal celebrant and preacher. Especially welcome are “seekers” of two kinds:

- People wanting to check out Grace Church specifically
- Those who’ve been away from church in general and want to dip a toe back in the water, so to speak.

Also, we want to provide a Sunday afternoon alternative for members and friends who have to miss Sunday morning services due to travel or other commitments. The service will last about 45 minutes, and feature a little music from time to time. **And pets are welcome!**

Zydeco on the Lawn!

“Little Red and the Renegades”

Wednesday, June 16, 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Get some friends together, bring a picnic supper—grounds open at 6 p.m.

No charge; donations are welcome—suggested amount: \$5 to \$10, depending on your personal cash flow!

Jazz Brunch on the Lawn / Volunteer Recognition

Sunday, June 27: Festive Brunch (catered! No pressure to sign up and bring food!), 11:15 to 12:45; music from the Blues Alley Youth Orchestra All-Star Combo; a chance to show our gratitude to all the volunteers who make our ministries run.

Bach Festival: 17th Annual

July 3 through 9; see flier—separate attachment (electronic version); enclosed (paper version)

20s-30s-40s Events

20s/30s/40s Bible Study, with sparkling lemonade and wine!

Tuesday, June 29, 7 p.m. in the Rose Room; theme and readings to be announced

Zydeco on the Lawn

See above; young adults should come about 6:45 – bring a picnic basket with something to eat and a blanket to sit on!

Journeys of Body and Spirit

Grace's own **David Crawford** and **Sally Stanfield** traveled to the Holy Land earlier this year. Below, please find their reflections on this experience. We hope to schedule presentations by both over the summer.

"Happy are they whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on the pilgrim's way"; Psalm 84:4

From David

The pilgrimage, by occurring at the (not frequent) congruence of Western and Orthodox observances of Holy Week and Easter, and in and around the Holy City of Jerusalem, enabled us pilgrims to absorb the exuberance and beauty of numerous Christian traditions. When experienced, as we did, as a close-knit group of serious (but not somber) pilgrims under the tutelage of the Rev. John Peterson (importantly, he's also an archaeologist), it put us as close to "you were there" as I could ever hope to realize.

All this happened, though, in close proximity to the political tension which has been a hallmark of this Land in our modern age. Yet, just around the corner, a moment of calm and quiet or of seemingly spontaneous choral rejoicing might be waiting for us.

For me, this trip ranks as a--or perhaps "the"--trip of a lifetime.

From Sally

Part of the incentive for this pilgrimage, for me and David alike, was the fact that both the Western and the Eastern Orthodox churches were celebrating Easter on the same Sunday, a rare event although at the end of the trip we learned that it will happen again in 2011. Because of this confluence, more than the usual activities would be taking place between Palm Sunday and Easter in the Holy Land.

The main highlight of the trip was the chance to be led by Canon John Peterson, who, as David mentions above, was a biblical archeologist before he became a priest. He was also the Dean of Saint George's College in Jerusalem, where we stayed, before he became the Canon for Global Justice and Reconciliation at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. John with his knowledge and excitement about the land brought the words to life. Everybody should have the chance to have him as their guide when going to Jerusalem and Palestine.

One of the recommended readings given to us before we left was *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, which I read before I left and again during Holy Week in the Holy Land. This reading of the familiar words of the Gospels made the Easter week come alive in a way that I have never experienced before.

On this trip the places, the people, the companions, the many different kinds of religious practices combined to make this an incredible experience.

“Uncorked”

April 25, 2010

Thanks to Nancy Seferian for the great photos!

