

Grace News

MAKING GOD'S KINGDOM REAL FOR ALL!

Grace Episcopal Church
1041 Wisconsin Avenue NW
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www.gracedc.org

July • August 2010 issue

Bach Festival



Bach in a 1748 portrait by Hausmann

It gives me great pleasure to write about our upcoming 2010 17th Bach festival. We will have four concerts in our Grace Church Bach Festival this year. The American Guild of Organists (“AGO”) National Convention will be here in Washington, DC, from July 5 - 8, and this time has traditionally in past years, been part of the dates for our Bach Festival concerts. There are 2,200 organists pre-registered for the convention, and our Bach Festival agenda has been on the AGO website as pre- and post-convention events since January, 2010.

As I write this, our first concerts for the Grace Bach Festival are 2 weeks from today! My Bach group and I are playing at 3 pm on Saturday, July 3 at 3 pm, and my German organist friend and colleague, Professor Roland Stangier, who played a marvelous recital last year in our Bach Festival, is performing at 7 pm on Saturday, July 3 at Grace. I am suggesting for you real Bach lovers: come at 3 pm for my Bach group concert, enjoy an early dinner in Georgetown, and return (for a half price suggested donation) for Professor Stangier’s recital!

Professor Thomas Marshall, a friend and colleague of mine since 1972, who has played many years in our Bach Festival, is playing July 4 at a 4 pm recital. Professor Marshall will be playing Bach’s complete concerto transcriptions. This is marvelous music, and especially if you are new to classical music, this would be a great recital to attend. Bach’s transcriptions are of popular orchestral and chamber music composers of the Baroque period for the organ.

The founder of the Grace Bach Festival, Larry Molinaro, will be performing on Friday, July 9 at 8 pm. I continue my praise and thanks to both Larry, and David Bird, our former Rector at Grace Church, for the courage and foresight to begin the Grace Church Bach Festival 17 years ago.

Finally, I thank our Rector, The Reverend John Graham, for his constant and continued support of the Grace Church Bach Festival.

Please visit our website at www.gracedc.org for more information on our Bach Festival.

Soli Deo Gloria!

FRANCINE MATE



From the Rector

At its 76th General Convention, held in Anaheim, California last summer, the Episcopal church authorized its bishops to “provide generous pastoral responses” to meet the needs of gay and lesbian members of this church. In March of 2010, Mayor Adrian Fenty signed the District of Columbia Marriage Equality act, permitting the civil marriage of same-sex couples.

Subsequently, Bishop of Washington John Bryson Chane authorized Episcopal clergy serving parishes in the District of Columbia to solemnize (perform) same-sex marriage within certain guidelines. The most important of these guidelines require clergy to secure the support of their Vestries, and to offer same-gender marriage only to persons resident in the Diocese of Washington. An individual qualifies as “resident in the diocese” if he or she is a member in good standing of a parish in the diocese, i.e., regular in attendance and giving for at least one year. This provision prevents persons from dioceses which do not provide same-gender marriage from coming to the Diocese of Washington solely for the purpose of getting married. Bishop Chane wishes to preserve relationships of mutual respect that still obtain between dioceses which have approved same-gender marriage, and those which have not.

I support Bishop Chane’s decision, and believe both our diocese and the General Convention have done the right thing in making same-gender marriage available. The Vestry, Executive Committee and I have engaged in several substantive discussions about Grace’s response to these initiatives. The Vestry now has a motion on the table for consideration, allowing me to exercise my pastoral discretion in deciding whether to perform same-gender marriages, within the Bishop’s guidelines and as requests for such are received.

The Vestry, Wardens and I invite your comments on this motion. Feel free to write, e-mail, call or talk with me, Senior Warden Scott Murphy, or any Vestry member. The Vestry, having heard from parishioners, hopes to vote on this motion in August or September.

No Grace member has requested same-gender marriage, and I don’t anticipate receiving any such requests in the near future. Nonetheless, it’s important for Grace to prepare for future possibilities through deliberation, conversation and Vestry action. Your comments and responses to this article, should you wish to offer them, will help further this process.

JOHN GRAHAM



Photograph by Diahn Ott

Vacation Bible School

THEME: A HOLY PILGRIMAGE THROUGH DC

Parents, children and Children's Ministries Director Jacqueline Walters will tour various sites of religious significance and learn about the spiritual truths to which they give expression.

HERE'S THE CALENDAR OF VISITS:

June 27 ☞ Sunday

Grace Church
During Sunday School
Leader: Jacqueline Walters

August 7 ☞ Saturday

National Cathedral at 11am
Leader: TBA
PROGRAMING FOR TODDLERS

July 10 ☞ Sunday

After Church Picnic Lunch
Franciscan Monastery
Leader: Molinaro Family
PROGRAMING FOR TODDLERS

August 12 ☞ Thursday

Sixth & I Historic Synagogue and/
or The Islamic Center at 2pm
Leader: Dunn Family

July 24 ☞ Thursday

National Art Gallery
Scavenger Hunt at 2pm
Leader: TBA

August 15 ☞ Sunday

Church Picnic/ Ending
Presentations After the Service
Leader: TBA
EVERYONE INVITED

JACQUELINE WALTERS



PARISHIONER PROFILES

I'd like to share a few thoughts that John and I had about a new feature we are planning for GRACE NEWS.

John asked me to interview members of our parish with a special focus in mind—How do you connect your faith with your life?

The main questions I'd ask are— What brought you to Grace and what keeps you here? And, how do you take what you receive at Grace into your life?

Some people think about these things a lot, and some maybe not so much, but it may be helpful to put into words some of your frustrations and hopes, and how the church can, or does, help you with both. I thought I'd let you know that I might be approaching you about this, and that I'd like you to feel free to contribute only if you really want to.

We'd like this to be a safe place, a community of friends. We talk to each other all the time, mostly about the business of running the Church. We would be expanding the scope of our conversations.

I welcome any suggestions or thoughts you have for this new feature. And, if you'd like to volunteer to be interviewed, that would be great! Thanks, and stay tuned!

BARBARA DE BEAUFORT



Photograph by Diahn Ott

Upcoming EVENTS



Photograph by Diahn Ott

- ☞ **17th Annual Bach Festival:** see Francine's article on page 2, or the Festival Flier (attached or enclosed)
- ☞ **Vacation Bible School:** see Jacqueline's article on page 3
- ☞ **Young Adults Bible Study** (with wine, non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks):
Tuesday, June 29 at 7 p.m. in the Rose Room; other dates over the summer to be announced
- ☞ **Music on the Lawn:** Tuesday, July 27 at 7 p.m. with the Sandra Y. Johnson ensemble - blues-inflected vocals backed by a powerhouse quartet; Tuesday, August 24, with the performers to be announced
- ☞ **Non-alcoholic "Happy Hour"** on the Grace lawn, Wednesday evenings in August, sponsored by the Georgetown Business Improvement District
- ☞ **Yoga on the Grace Lawn, 9 – 10 a.m. Saturday, August 7;** sponsored by the Georgetown Business Improvement District

New Service at Grace

Grace now offers 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 lasts about 35 minutes, and features a little music from time to time. Pets are welcome!

Volunteer Appreciation

On Sunday, June 27, we expressed our gratitude both to, and for, those who volunteer their time, talent and treasure for the good of this Christian community and its ministries. At our 8:30 and 10 a.m. services we gave thanks for all of those who worship and serve God through the holy fellowship of Grace Church, and we honored the devotion of all our members with a festive Jazz Brunch on the Lawn following the 10 a.m. service. The heartfelt gratitude of the whole congregation goes out to several anonymous contributors to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Their extraordinary generosity made the brunch possible.

We gave thanks for all those to whom we entrust the responsibility of governance and the work of administration:

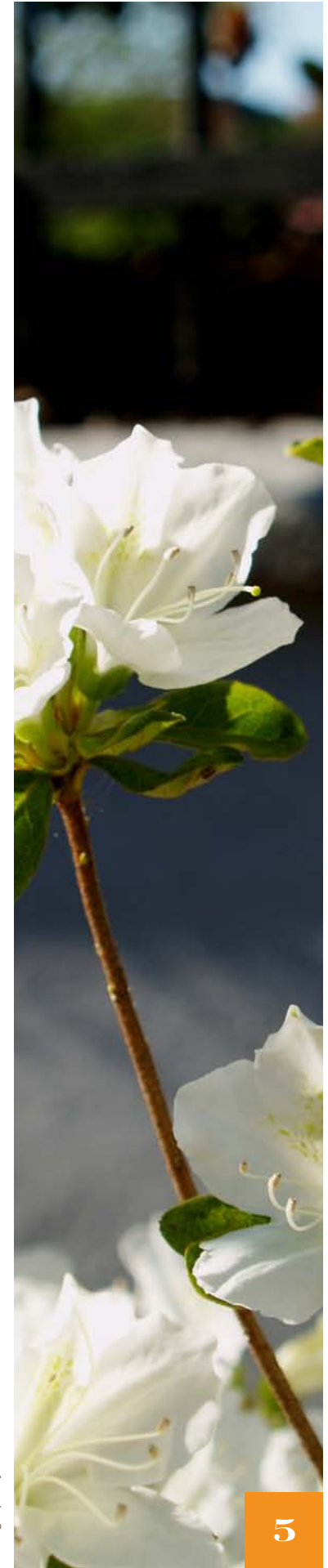
Scott Murphy, Senior Warden; Paul Alligood, Junior Warden; Braden Murphy, Treasurer and Reg Burner, Treasurer "Emeritus" who is training Braden; Sally Stanfield, Vestry Secretary, and the whole Vestry; Jon Hasse and the counters; Gigi Raney, Grace's Financial Secretary; Scott Murphy and the Stewardship Committee; Helen Buhr, our Office Manager, who, though a staff member, goes above and beyond the call of duty in the work of administration, and James Hamilton, who provides invaluable assistance to the office staff; David Crawford and his Envisioning Grace Committee; Sally Stanfield and Steven Scharre, delegates to Diocesan Convention; Janet Sale and the Memorials Committee.

We gave thanks for all who teach in this place, and all who learn; for all who speak and write, and all who read and listen:

Jacqueline Walters, Children's Ministries Coordinator, another staff person who invests much more time and energy than her job requires, and all of our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teachers, helpers, families and children; the Adult Forum community, especially Jim Sale and Russ Barnes, who take on teaching responsibilities from time to time; Jonathan Jones, our newsletter editor; Adam Harrington, the Vestry's website liaison, and the team that oversaw the launch of our new website last summer; Tom and Kay Horst and the Seminarian Lay Committee.

We gave thanks for all who serve members, friends and neighbors in Christ's Name and on our behalf:

Kristin Killoran Hasse, Judie and Peter Storandt, and all who sustain and support the ministries of Grace's Table, Grace's Café and Grace's membership in the Washington Interfaith Network; Margaret Davis, Tom Horst and the Outreach Committee; Lenore Reid, Andrew Davis, Helena Dunn, with Catherine Aselford, Helen Buhr and the Taste of Georgetown volunteers, and all who connect us to the work of the Georgetown Ministry Center; David and Joanna Bujard, who reach out to Georgetown University students; Susan Tobias, Helen Buhr and the Pastoral Care Committee.



Volunteer Appreciation

CONTINUED

We gave thanks for those who strengthen the bonds of affection, creating occasions for recreation and renewal;

Elizabeth Hill and the Friends of Grace Gala committee; Stacy Carter and all who make our Coffee Hour such a fitting expression of our common life; David Bujard and the Poetry Coffee House team; Francine Maté and the Bach Festival volunteers; Jane Mosbacher and the 20s30s40s group; Helen Buhr and her Parents' Night Out helpers; Jean McKinney and the Koinonia community; Scott Murphy and the Parish Retreat Committee and participants.

We gave thanks for all who enhance the beauty of our grounds and maintain the integrity of our buildings:

Paul Alligood, our Junior Warden, Kimberly Ludwig and the Adopt-a-Garden team – Vicki Carlson, who takes care of the Stratton Memorial Garden, Helena Dunn, who tends to the Peggy Lincoln memorial around the Memorial Cross; Will Ollison, and many others; Luis Solares, our Sexton, another staff member whose commitment far exceeds his compensation.

We gave thanks for those who seek to perfect the praises offered by God's people, through music, Eucharistic ministries and special services:

Janet Sale and the Servers, Communion Ministers and Lay Readers; Helen Buhr with the Junior Servers and Greeters; Francine Maté, a musician, like several I've been privileged to work with, understand their position as a ministry, not just a job, and the Choir she leads; Nancy James, her team of Lay Homilists, and the Wednesday Service stalwarts; Sally Stanfield, our Sacristan; Helen Buhr and the Centering Prayer community.

And we give continual thanks for all those who have sustained Grace Church by their offering of time, talent and treasure not only in this generation but in time past, and for those who, by God's grace, will do so in time to come. And we thank the good Lord for the many current members of Grace who have served in the capacities mentioned in this article and in Sunday's prayers, and have passed on their responsibilities to others; if space and time allowed, we would name them all.

JOHN GRAHAM





The Seventeenth Bach Festival at Grace Church

Saturday, July 3, 2010 at 3 pm

Francine Maté, Organ,
Director of the Bach Festival and
Organist/Choirmaster at Grace Church

Soo Young Kim Chrisfield, Soprano

Christopher Franke, Violin

Emily Leader, Violin

Elisabeth Plunk, Flute

Charlie Powers, Cello

Works include the Toccata in C Major, BWV 564,
The Bach Solo Cello Suite #2 in d minor, BWV 1008,
and the famous movement from the Birthday Cantata,
BWV 208 often entitled "Sheep May Safely Graze"

Enjoy an early dinner in Georgetown, and return to
Grace Church for more music at 7 pm!

Saturday, July 3, 2010 at 7 pm

Roland Maria Stangier, Organ

The program includes music by JS BACH, and
pieces by some of his European colleagues before
and after him.

Professor Stangier is the organist at the Essen
Philharmonic Hall (Kuhn-organ), Essen, Germany,
curator of the new Eule-organ Duisburg, Philharmonie
Mercatorhalle and professor of organ at Folkwang
University, Essen, Germany - <http://rmstangier.de>

Sunday, July 4, 2010 at 4 pm

Thomas M. Marshall, Organ

"CONCERTO V" – The 5 concerto organ
transcriptions of J.S. Bach

Professor Marshall is on the music faculty at the
College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.



Photo by Francine Maté

Friday, July 9, 2010 at 8 pm

Lawrence Molinaro, Organ

Founder of the Grace Church Bach Festival
and former Organist/Choirmaster at Grace Church

Rob Petillo, Cantor

Clavier-Übung III

Suggested Donation: \$20

Suggested donation for the July 3, 7 pm concert: \$10 if you attended the 3 pm program earlier that day.

There is no reserved seating. The church will be open for seating 45 minutes before each concert.

Information: All concerts are at Grace Church.

For more information: call (202) 333-7100 or visit the
Grace website at www.gracedc.org.



Grace Church 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW in Georgetown

(Below M Street, near the C&O Canal) The Georgetown Metro Connection (blue bus) runs every 10 minutes from the Rosslyn and Dupont Circle Metro Stations. The Circulator runs every 10 minutes from Union Station to Georgetown. Exit the bus at Wisconsin and M Street.

