

Grace News

MAKING GOD'S KINGDOM REAL FOR ALL!

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November - December 2010 issue

“PARISH RETREAT: *Living Responsively*”

By Mystelle Ruble

Despite tough schedule competition from Jon Stewart, twenty-eight Grace Church parishioners chose to spend the weekend of October 29-30 at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, MD.

The beautiful autumn forest provided a perfect peaceful backdrop as the retreaters took a break from their busy lives to relax and focus on God through teaching, prayer, fellowship in small and large groups, musical worship, and introspection. The group, led by Rev. Frank Wade, examined questions of God's characteristics, His interests for the world and His church, and how to identify and respond to Him in everyday life. All who attended were blessed with insights into new ways to observe their faith and closer relationships with their fellow parishioners.

Don't worry if you missed this year's retreat-we've already booked space at Bon Secours again for November 4-5, 2011. Mark your calendars!

Recap photos on page 7!



Coffee Hour

By John Graham

The Vestry and I extend our heartfelt gratitude to Stacy Carter for her service as Coffee Hour Coordinator the past two years. Her term as coordinator formally ended on the last Sunday of September, but she's

graciously agreed to continuing overseeing this ministry till a new coordinator is identified. She's taking a low-key approach - "no stalking" of parishioners to get them to sign up, as she said in her recent stewardship presentation :) - but will call our attention to the importance of Coffee Hour from time to time.

Grace is busy, and so are our members. Recruiting volunteers for Coffee Hour, as for many other ministries, isn't easy. Before seeking a new Coordinator, and between now and the end of this year, the Executive Committee and Vestry will consider ways to make the position less difficult. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

In the meantime, the Coffee Hour calendar will continue to be posted on the kiosk. Please sign up as you are able to do so. If no one has signed up for a given Sunday, I'll notify the congregation in the weekly update, so anyone who's willing and able can bring something for the uncommitted Sunday. Please remember that on these Sundays, no one will be serving as overall host. As a result, it's important for each person who brings food to prepare it and set it out for Coffee Hour, and to remove their food and serving dishes when they leave Grace for the day. As always, we're very grateful to all those who respond to our late-in-the-week alerts.

Parishioner Profile

TERENCE ASELFORD

By Barbara de Beaufort

An actor, director, and Grace Church member, Terence Aselford is a man of many voices. He currently narrates three audiobook series: a western, TEXAS RANGERS, a sword and sorcery, THE FOREST KINGDOM, and a post-apocalypse adventure, THE SURVIVALIST, and creates character voices for up to five other series a month.

His work at GraphicAudio runs the gamut from script adaptation and casting to directing and post-production. Terence emphasizes the collaborative nature of the process; he works closely with a post-production staff who magically assemble the elements to create a finished product. Although his work has its challenging moments, he says listening to each finished product is rewarding and fascinating. "It's gratifying to hear a whole world created with sound, dialog, and characterization emerge at the end of every project."

Terence's first experiences at Grace Church were initiated because his wife Catherine needed a place for the Georgetown Theatre Company to do some staged readings. Catherine requested Grace's support and luckily space was available.

"After a couple of readings, we thought, 'We use their space, we really should attend one Sunday, just to see what the service is like.' Our first contact was Helen Buhr. She and Lenore Reid made us feel welcome, and we knew we wanted to come back. We became members, and when our son Bobby was born, he too was welcomed into the community of Grace." Terence was also attracted to the architecture and feel of the space of the Church, which reminded him of his childhood church in Milford, Pennsylvania.

Coming to Grace on Sundays helps Terence slow down a little and take stock of his life. The communion words, 'Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal,' give him direction. In addition, Terence finds a sense of community in the Grace Church concept of coffee hour, and he appreciates the congregation's



help passing on important values--inclusiveness, renewal, strength, and community--to Bobby, who is now 12 and preparing for Confirmation later this fall. Terence sees John Graham as a great source of support, humor, and guidance, both in sermons and in personal discussions. John's pastoral visits when Terence was in the hospital a couple of years ago, were a great pleasure and comfort.

Terence described the experience of an early morning earthquake in Mexico in 1986. Initially, he thought someone was violently kicking his bed, but when he realized it was an earthquake, he knew he was absolutely powerless to do anything to stop it. He connects this to the feeling of growing older, when ideas and concepts that you take for granted shift and change. The values of Grace inspire him to take a broader view; to see both sides of what is happening, to come to terms with change, and appreciate the perspective that comes with age.

A first generation Irish American on his father's side, Terence will soon speak with another new voice. He is performing in the wonderful, funny farce, GIANNI SCHICCHI, adapted by John Morogiello from the plot of an opera by Puccini. Terence plays the disreputable third cousin, Betto, who has shown up for the reading of a rich man's will. GIANNI SCHICCHI, directed by Catherine Aselford, will be performed at the Randolph Road Theatre November 5-28: Fridays at 8 pm, Saturdays at 2 and 8 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Terence hopes that Grace parishioners will enjoy coffee hour and then head to the Randolph Road Theatre for some big laughs!

Grace to Host Homeless Shelter

DECEMBER 5 TO DECEMBER 19

Note from the Rector:

We are very grateful to Helena Dunn for taking over the coordination of the shelter at Grace, and to Andrew Davis and Kimberly Ludwig for agreeing to serve on the Georgetown Ministry Center Board. Lenore Reid served in both capacities – shelter coordinator and board representative – for some 17 years. Words cannot express our gratitude to Lenore, and we are all delighted that the good will of others now allows her to move on to other ministries.

By Helena Dunn

One of Grace's primary areas of ministry is serving the homeless population of Georgetown. In addition to Grace's Table, a meal and fellowship program held for the homeless every Saturday from September 1 through May 31, Grace parishioners, together with other community volunteers, participate every year in the Congregation-based Shelter.

Started in 1992, the program supports ten homeless men and women with dinner and breakfast and a warm safe place to sleep from 7 pm until 7 am. Ten congregations work together to host the shelter during the winter months. The shelter residents are screened by the Georgetown Ministry Center staff. In addition to providing a safe haven from the harsh winter weather, this program seeks to link the residents to a continuum of care to help them get off the streets.

This year Grace is hosting the shelter from Sunday, December 5 through Sunday, December 19. Cooks and overnight volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinner each night, joining the shelter residents for dinner in the Rose Room. Also needed are overnight volunteers who will have dinner with the shelter residents and staff, stay overnight and assist with the breakfast in the morning.

If you can volunteer to cook dinner, stay overnight or bring breakfast items to the church during this period, please sign up at the kiosk. Also posted on the kiosk are guidelines for cooks and overnight volunteers. Volunteering for the shelter is a worthwhile family activity. It is also an opportunity to introduce friends to one of the many activities here at Grace. Reimbursement for food costs is available. If you have questions or would like menu suggestions, see me at church, call me (301-654-2184), or get in touch by e-mail: helenatdunn@aoo.com.



Photograph by Diahn Ott

A Grand Affair!

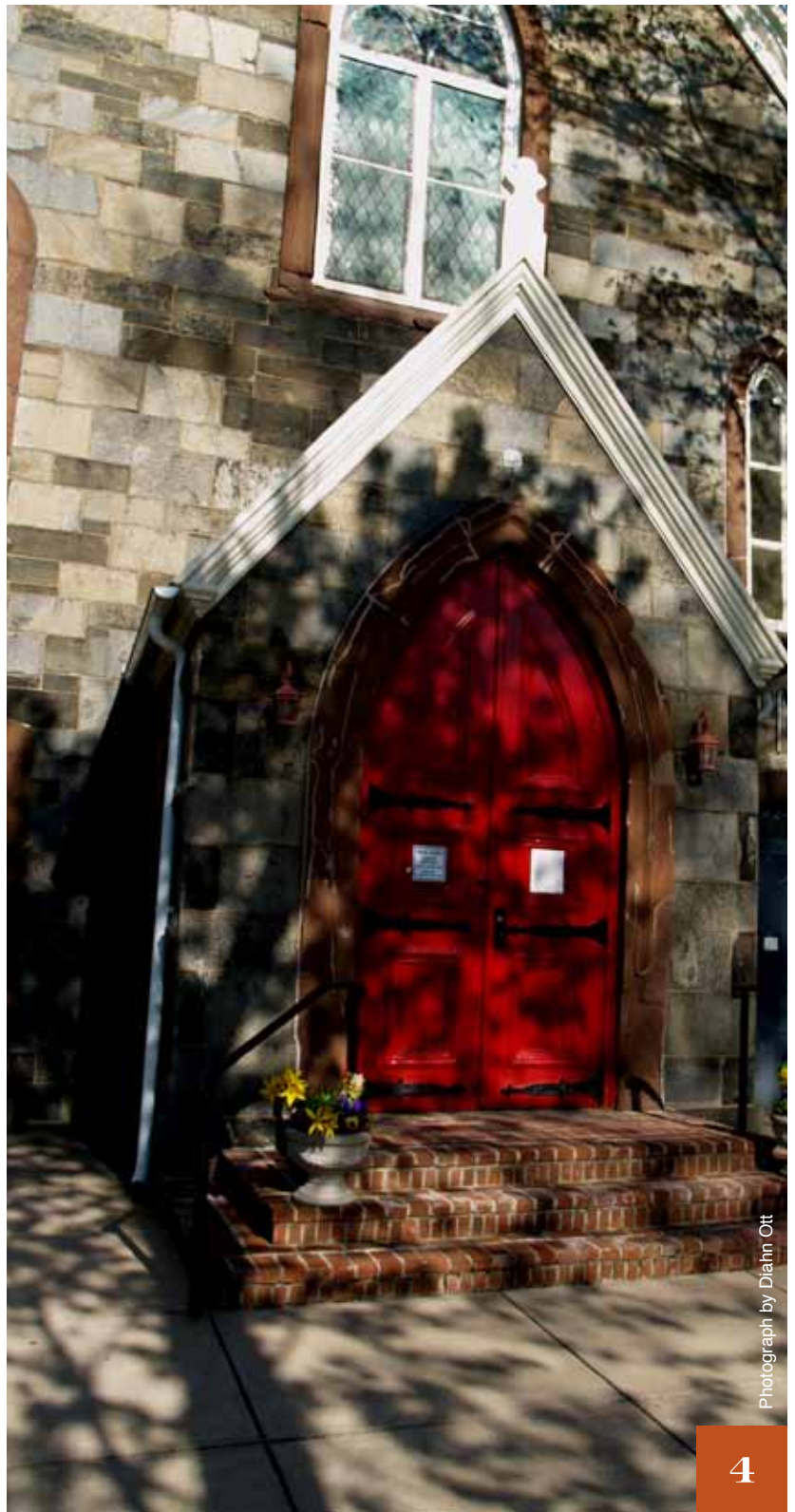
By Jacqueline Walters and Danielle Dotson

We're excited about this year's Christmas pageant, scheduled for December 12 during the 10:30 service. The children of Grace church have an incredible amount of talent. This year the pageant will seek to broadcast some of this talent. The script is a dramatization of the nativity account in Luke, and features many more speaking parts than we've had in previous years. The hope is to have ALL OF OUR CHILDREN involved this year. Since this is the first year we are using this script we will need more practice. To ensure our children's success, Sunday School age children will rehearse every Sunday in November beginning at 10am and through Sunday School. On December 4th, we will rehearse the entire play and will need to have toddlers (and their parents) there.

All church members are welcome to get involved. We need costumes, a basic set, and props. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out.

The Pageant will also feature our nascent Children's Choir. Songs will mostly be well-known already. There will be quite a few and there will be parts for soloists (verses and/or solo lines). If your child is interested in singing a solo please let Danielle know so we can match the best solo with your child after hearing them sing.

There may be a few carols from other countries and cultures included for variety and a broader take on Christmas carols. We're all looking forward to it!



Photograph by Diann Ott



Looking to Lent

By Seminarian Katie Nakamura

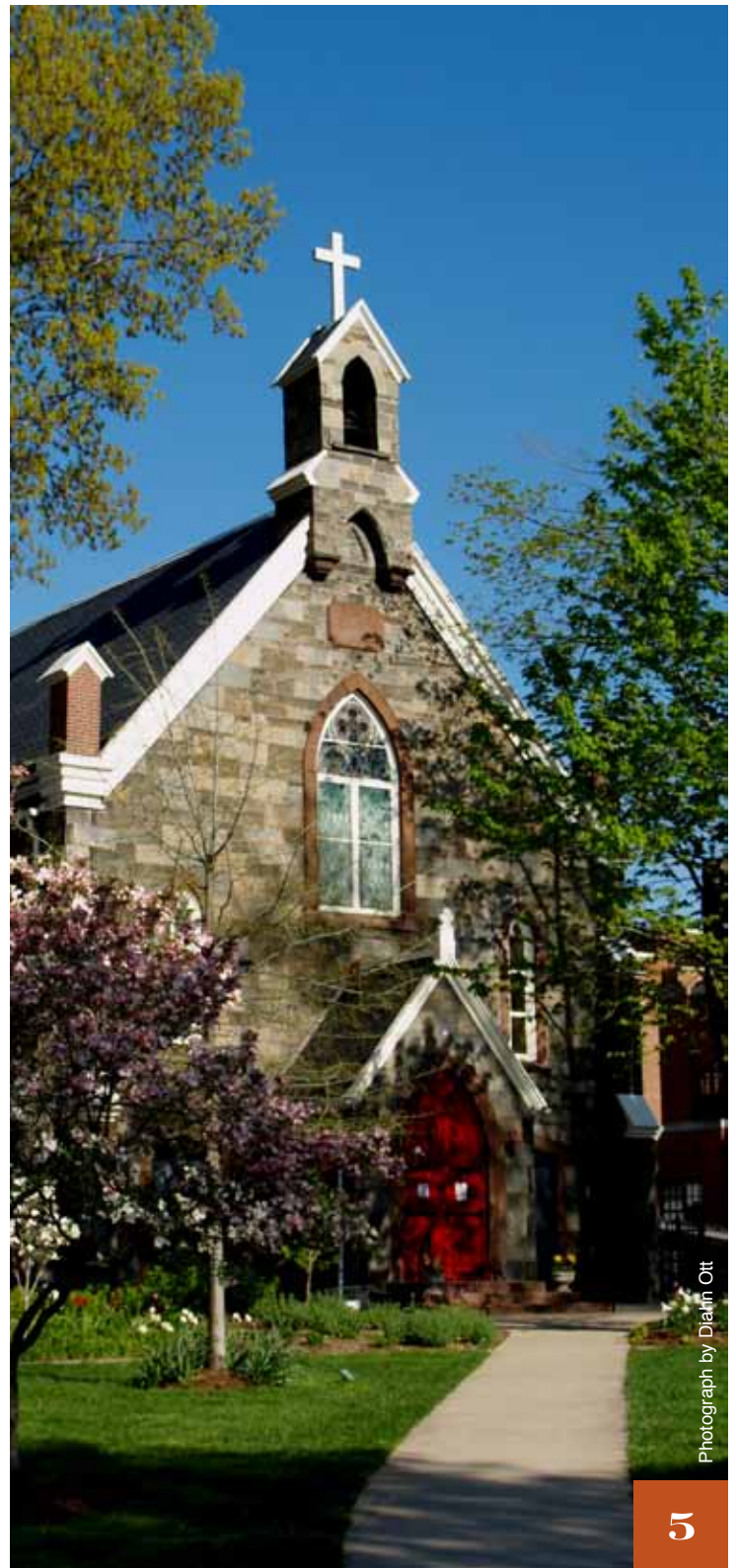
Though it is still some months away, I ask you to look ahead with me to our observance of Lent. I have been part of several Episcopal Churches that create their own Lenten devotional books each year. Parishioners each take one date in Lent and write a brief reflection on the Daily Office readings for that day. The reflections are edited into a daily devotional, which is distributed to the whole congregation for our common use during Lent. While hundreds of Lenten devotional resources abound, it has always been most amazing and humbling to read the spiritual reflections of my friends.

I am eager to share the holy time of Lent with all of you at Grace in the same way. Through reading each other's reflections, we can gain not only insight into the scriptures, but also deeper knowledge of each other and the spiritual life we share in Christ. The reflections can be prayerful, intellectual, personal, longer or shorter - however each of us personally feels called to reflect on the readings.

Please let me know if you would like to compose a reflection for our Lenten devotional book. At the start of Advent (early December), I will begin assigning the Lenten dates and distributing the Daily Office readings. The books will be available for our contemplation and prayer by Ash Wednesday. Please think about making your own offering to the Grace devotional.

Confirmation and Reception

We rejoice with Grace members confirmed in a service at the National Cathedral on Saturday, November 6: **Robert (Bobby) Aselford, John Christian Noer, Ellen Cornelius Ericson, and Bessie Sipple-Asher, and James Hamilton**, who was received as a member of the Episcopal Church.



Photograph by Diann Ott



What's Going On at Grace?

Adult Forum in November and December

“Alpha and Omega: Beginnings and Endings on the Human Journey”

9:30 am, Sundays in November, in the Parish Hall; presentations, reflections and suggestions welcome

Help the Homeless

Support Grace’s partner, the Georgetown Ministry Center, and its services for homeless persons. Participate in the Help the Homeless Walk on the National Mall on November 20. For more information, and to register, go to www.helpthehomelessdc.org.

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, November 21 after the 10:30 service

See insert for Vestry nominations and biographical statements; program, committee and ministry reports available at church on Sunday, November 14.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, 10:30 am

Rev. Nancy James will celebrate and preach

Georgetown Ministry Center Community Based Shelter

At Grace Sunday, December 5 through Sunday, December 19

See Helena Dunn’s article for more information.

Christmas Lessons and Carols & the Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 am.

A great occasion for inviting friends and neighbors to Grace! Pageant rehearsals every Sunday in November, and December 5 and 12, beginning at 10 a.m. See article on the pageant by Jacqueline Walters and Danielle Dotson

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24

Family Eucharist with Children’s Homily, 6 pm

Carol Sing, 10:30 pm

Festive Eucharist, 11 pm

Christmas Day Eucharist, 10:30 am

Coming in January

Sexuality in the Bible: a series led by the Rector at Adult Forum, 9:30 Sundays, and on Wednesday evenings at 7 throughout the month. This offering comes in response to several requests from parishioners seeking guidance on the issue of same-gender marriage at Grace, now before the Vestry.



The Parish Retreat

PHOTO RECAP

Photos by Mystelle Ruble and Stacy Notaras Murphy



Taste of Georgetown

PHOTO RECAP

Photos by Malini Suri

