



RECTOR'S LETTER

PENTECOST 2009
August

Good People:

A word about stewardship: Stewardship, the larger discipline of faith of which our pledges are merely a part, what the Bible would call the 'first fruits' which is given to God in thanksgiving for life. Stewardship suggests that the first item of the life of faith is the relationships we have with one other and through those relationships we witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and serve the world in Christ's name. The basis of a community of faith engaged in the discipline of faith is the depths of relationships. How well do we know each other?

Last Spring the parish (and hundreds of others) completed a survey about parish life. When you look at the community of faith with which you worship, the survey results might give some depth to the relationships which make up Grace Church. Here goes:

The survey response was heavily weighted by those 45 to 64 years old. Three quarters of us are in church every Sunday and another twenty percent are here three of four Sundays. A third of us have been here for more than 20 years and a third between three and ten years. About half of us participate in parish programs and half do not. About half of the congregation is engaged in outreach to the world. Ninety seven percent acknowledged the impact of Eucharist in daily life, and three quarters of us have a daily prayer life interactive with the Sunday worship schedule. Twenty four percent say they grew spiritually in a significant sense, half said they grew a little. Three quarters of us see the Bible as the Word of God interpreted in culture and history. Sixty percent believe that all faith traditions have an equal standing with Christianity and forty percent of us have had a conversion experience. In keeping with the national trends, church people overwhelmingly vote and overwhelmingly give money outside their pledge to the Church. Three quarters of us feel they belong here. Two thirds of us live in households, a third are single. Most of us live within a twenty minute drive from the parish. God's presence, joy and inspiration are

standard responses to worship by three quarters of us. Of those who give the 'first fruits' to God in pledges, forty four percent give less than 5%, thirty three percent give 5 to 9%, and ten percent of us tithe. Seventy five percent of the congregation surveyed are excited about the parish's future, and the same number believes that the parishioners are willing to try something new.

How does this effect stewardship? Well Grace Church appears to be living faithfully and taking care of our relationships with one another and the Gospel imperative to bring Good News to the poor and broken hearted. There is a depth of relationships where the energy of Faith abides. When we look at each other on Sunday mornings in worship, one might presume that we are all engaging in a deep and meaningful life of faith and that thanksgiving for the presence of the Holy Spirit ought to be part of the prayers each of us offer.

May you continue to see God's Blessings, *Richard+*

HOLD THE DATE!!
HARVEST
CELEBRATION
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17
SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
NEEDED!!



This year's Harvest Celebration will be held on Saturday evening, October 17 and proceeds will benefit the Youth Commission and the General Operating Budget. This event will include a delicious buffet, great music by Cover-Up and a silent auction. Child care will also be available. Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for a great night!

Look for more information inside. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Claudia Uccellani at uccell@yahoo.com. For silent auction donations, please contact Kim Cross at kim.cross@nyackcenter.org.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Summertime Secret Agent Project

Grace Church School Secret Agents should be close to discovering the missing person! So far three clue sheets have been presented, which when solved each reveal one of the characteristics of the missing person, as well as one of the letters in their name. Kids should have a solution sheet with space to list the 6 characteristics and to spell out the name of the missing person. All of the clue sheets, extra solution sheets and craft supplies will be stored in a plastic cart in the narthex. A bible is needed to solve most clue sheets. Check your e-mail over the next week for on-line copies of the clue sheets. Solution sheets can be turned in at church school registration in the fall to receive a prize!

Kids Table During Summertime Services

On Sunday, July 5 Grace switched to a new summertime service schedule featuring services at 8:00 and 10:00am. A kid's table featuring coloring pages, books, puzzle sheets and more has been set-up in the church during the services. Kids can either sit with their families or work quietly at this table. This schedule continues through September 6.

Looking for Church School Teachers

Do you enjoy working with children and have 3-4 hours to spare each month? We are always looking for new volunteers to co-teach a church school class. At least 3 teachers are assigned to each to group to enable a 3 week teaching rotation. The focus of our church school curriculum is teaching different bible stories through discussion, games and crafts. A curriculum is provided that offers step by step suggestions and numerous ideas to lead a fun and interesting class. No previous teaching or religious experience is necessary! Please contact jenmarraccino/358-5108 for more information. Thank you!

Important Dates for September

Church School registration will be held in the Memorial Garden on **Sunday, September 13'** immediately following the 9:30am family service. Even if you've been here before, a new form must be filled out to ensure that we have the most current information on your children. Church school is available free of charge for children aged 4 years old - 8th grade thanks to the hard work of our volunteer teachers and Youth Commission. Information will also be available regarding Senior Youth Group for High School aged youth.

Classes will begin the following **Sunday, September 20**. Class will once again combine a lesson and choir instruction and usually last about 60 minutes. We will be looking for families to sign-up to provide refreshments while the kids are attending church school.

Jennifer Marraccino
Church School Coordinator

CONFIRMATION

We are preparing the class list for the 2010 confirmation group. If you have someone going into the eighth grade next year and interested in knowing more about the Faith as it is lived by the Episcopal Church, please call the church office or email us so we can include all who are interested for the fall start up.

Orientation /dinner for confirmands and parents is on **Wednesday, September 16** from at **6:00pm**.

CYSM RETURNS

Our group returned safely from their week in Beards Fork, Virginia, where they helped to build housing and worked with local children on their reading skills. Keep on eye on the church bulletin board where we'll soon have a display of more photos and excerpts from the participants' journals.



Katya Anger, Nicholas Baere, Abigail Bell, Meredith Campbell, Caitlin Cummings, Lila Ench, Dana Farris, Jillian Fletcher, Keegan Fletcher, Claire Greenwood, Alex Hahn, Chris Hahn, Dakota McCormick, Briana Nelson, Julia Retallack Adults: Charlie Cross, Diane Deveau, Richard Gressle, Jerry Kiely, and Moriah Olsen.





AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED!!!

It's time to get ready for the third annual **Harvest Celebration** featuring cocktails, live music and a **SILENT AUCTION** taking place on Saturday, October 17!!!! Funds raised with this event will benefit the **Youth Commission that funds our Church School as well as the General Operating Budget for the church.** Right now we are in the planning phase and we are asking all members of the parish to help us create an amazing auction by donating at least one item. Below are many ideas that will hopefully

give you a great idea for an item or service that you can contribute towards this important fundraising event.

Auction Ideas:

- * **Golf packages** – Do you belong to a Country Club? Can you donate a threesome or a foursome at your course?
- * Where do you shop – for clothes, wine, presents – many shop owners are happy to give a **gift certificate** - it brings new clients into their store.
- * Where do you go out to dinner? Again – giving a **gift certificate** is a great way to bring in new business.
- * **Spa Packages** – Pedicures, manicures, haircuts, facials – Think where you shop!
- * **Weekend Get-Away** – Does your family have a vacation home and would you be willing to donate a visit?
- * **Lessons** – Do you have a skill or talent that you can share in the form of lessons – piano, tennis, art, cooking, guitar, etc.
- * **Home Improvement** – Can you help maintain or improve someone's home with landscaping, gardening, construction, painting, design, plumbing etc.
- * **Hand Crafted Items** - pottery, photography, etc.
- * **Tickets, Tickets, Tickets** – Sports, ballet, concerts, theatre – all of these are great!
- * **Dessert of the Month** – Can you make a yummy dessert and deliver it to someone's home?

YES, I CAN DONATE:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____



This form can be handed in to the parish office or you can call Kim Cross (721-5514) or e-mail kim.cross@nyackcenter.org to discuss this further – Thank you!

AUGUST 2009 CALENDAR

Sunday, August 2

8/10:00am – Holy Eucharist

Monday, August 3

Amazing Grace Circus Camp continues
Weekdays through August 14

Wednesday, August 4

7:30pm Church School curriculum planning meeting

Saturday, August 8

9:30am ASF (Patterson Hall)
10:00am Midnight Run (Memorial Hall)
10:30am COSM (Patterson Hall)

Sunday, August 9—Transfiguration

8/10:00am – Holy Eucharist
6:00pm French Creole Mass

Monday, August 10

Amazing Grace Circus Camp continues
Weekdays through August 15

Tuesday, August 11

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)

Saturday, August 15

10:00am Memorial for Karen Ural

Sunday, August 16—Feast of St. Mary the Virgin

8/10:00am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, August 18

7:30pm – Vestry Meeting (Patterson Hall)

Saturday, August 22

9:00am to Noon - Mini Work Day

Sunday, August 23

8/10:00am – Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, August 25

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)

Sunday, August 30

8/10:00am – Holy Eucharist
6:30pm French Creole Mass

AUGUST 2009 - SERVICE MINISTRY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

8:00am

Subdeacon/Lector: J. Humeston; **Acolyte:** J. Martin

10:00am

Subdeacon/Chalice: P. Gilbert/R. Pettengill;

Lectors: M. Owens/G. Torrens

Crucifer: J. Cochran; **Torch:** C. Cox;

Usher Team: Graham; **Greeter:** R. Fee

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 - Transfiguration

8:00am

Subdeacon/Lector: J. Tozer **Acolyte:** M. MacQueen

10:00am

Subdeacon/Chalice: L. Holt/J. Matthews;

Lectors: T. Bergen/N. Bark **Crucifer:** E. Lombardi;

Torches: S. Burns/C. Wanamaker;

Usher Team: Wanamaker **Greeter:** S. Chalke

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 – Feast of St. Mary the Virgin

8:00am

Subdeacon/Lector: R. Hammond **Acolyte:** M. MacQueen

10:00am

Subdeacon/Chalice: C. Howe/M. LaPlace;

Lectors: M. Lehrecke/J. Weslowski

Verger/Thurifer: J. Cochran/J. McDowell;

Crucifer: P. Cose **Torches:** C. Cox/CM. Cummings;

Usher Team: Cross/Seaman; **Greeter:** B. Growney

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

8:00am

Subdeacon/Lector: K. Fulmor; **Acolyte:** J. Martin

10:00am

Subdeacon/Chalice: R. Seiler/J. McDowell;

Lectors: LM Schnalzer/P. Richards

Crucifer: J. Cochran; **Torch:** P. Cose;

Usher Team: Colgan/Mann; **Greeter:** S. Seiler

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

8:00am

Subdeacon/Lector: J. Tozer; **Acolyte:** J. Martin

10:00am

Subdeacon/Chalice: J. Matthews/C. Uccellani;

Lectors: W. Perry/B. Seaman

Crucifer: E. Lombardi; **Torch:** B. DiRocco

Usher Team: Wanamaker; **Greeter:** B. Wanamaker



DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR FALL CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13

Church School Registration

Volunteer Ministry Fair

Concert of Remembrance

Sunday, September 20

First Day of Church School

Sunday, September 27

Parish Forum: Memorial Garden Report

Sunday, October 4

Feast of St. Francis: Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 17

Harvest Celebration

Saturday, October 24

Parish Retreat at Marydell

8th Annual CONCERT FOR REMEMBRANCE, 9/11 Sunday, September 13 at 5:00pm

The eighth annual Concert for Remembrance, 9/11 will be held Sunday, September 13, 5:00pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY. Sponsored by the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust, the concert is given in memory of all of the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001. There is no charge for admission and the public is warmly invited.

Professional musicians from American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, Albany Symphony, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Long Island Philharmonic, Stamford Symphony and Rockland Symphony volunteer their time for this concert.

Edward Simons, music director and conductor, is conductor of the Rockland Symphony Orchestra. Heather Vogel, violinist with the Albany Symphony and Rockland Symphony, will be concertmistress.

The concert opens with *Drei Stucke* for string orchestra by Henry Purcell (1658-1695). Marti Sweet, violinist will then perform the andante movement of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Concerto for Violin in A-minor*. Barbara Allen, principal harpist of the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra and the Greenwich Symphony, and Jerry Grossman, principal cellist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra will perform Camille Saint-Saens' *Le Cygne (The Swan)*.

Flutists Jacquelyn Drechsler, Rockland Symphony, Holly Druckman, Columbia University, and Kathleen Nester, of New Jersey Symphony and Stamford Symphony, will join together to perform flute trios. Pianists, Fredrica Wyman and Christopher Oldfather will perform a piano work for 4 hands by Franz Schubert.

Alison Crowther, violinist, Rockland Symphony, will perform the allegro movement from J.S. Bach's Sonata No.2 in A-minor. Ron Wasserman, principal double bassist of New York City Ballet Orchestra, will present *Quatrefoil*, his original composition for flute, viola, harp, and double bass. Wendy Stern, flutist, New Jersey Symphony; Desiree Elsevier, violist, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Barbara Allen, harpist, will join Ron in the performance. The concert will conclude with Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate*, KV 165, featuring soloist Jennifer Cece Bellon, soprano.

For more information about the concert, please call Alison Crowther at 845-358-2766. For directions, please visit www.gracechurchnyack.org and click on "Welcome" For information about the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust, please visit the website at www.crowthertrust.org. The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust is recognized as a not-for-profit organization according to section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Donations to the support the work of the trust are gratefully accepted.

Allison Crowther



LIVING IN GRACE Capital Campaign Update

Congratulations! Current pledge payments are close to \$500,000. **But we still need your help!** You pledged \$548,500 to the Living in Grace Campaign for capital improvements, including \$250,000 from the Cropsey estate. The immediate needs goal was \$500,000 which pledges exceeded. The long-term needs goal was \$700,000. New gifts and pledges are still welcome, especially because escalating prices and new discoveries of needs are limiting the scale of renovations.

To date Memorial Hall renovations are complete, the water infiltration issue has been addressed, the sidewalk repair project is well underway, but improvements to Babbitt House (the rectory) are still on the list and desperately needed.

If you have pledged, please consider an additional donation to the Living in Grace Campaign or, as others, have done, consider extending your giving for a fourth and fifth year. If you were not part of the pledge campaign, please consider a one-time gift to Living in Grace. **Payments may be made until July 1, 2010** when we make final preparations for the engraving of the donor plaque. The plaque will be hung in 2011 in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Grace Church.

If you want to make a pledge, please contact the church office and request a pledge packet for the Living in Grace Campaign. If you want to check the status of your pledge giving, please contact:

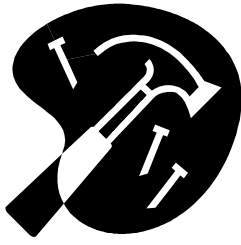
Sally Ann Mock Samock34@aol.com 358-8014

*Peggy Gilbert & Richard Mortlock,
Co-Chairs of the Living in Grace Campaign*

AMAZING GRACE CIRCUS! IN THE PARK



On line readers can [click here](#) for more photos.



NOTES FROM STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY

Changes to Parish Work Days!

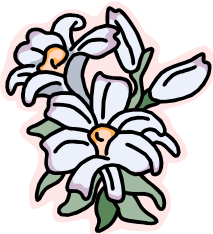
Our church and office buildings get much, much more use than say twenty years ago. Our own schedules have become more crowded and complicated. So, instead of having ONE parish work day, SCOP would like to try having a mini work day each month. Then if you can't make one, there will be another opportunity to help keep our rooms clean.

The first Mini Work Day will be on August 22nd from 9:00am to Noon. We'd like to concentrate that day on the Sanctuary. We'd like to clean the choir loft prior to their return from the summer hiatus. We'd like to dust and clean the wood on the altar, clean the windows and if enough people show up - polish some brass! These are all tasks which can be done by adults or young people. Take a short break from summer and make our Sanctuary sparkle!

There is a small area in need of painting. In the hallway, across from the bathrooms, repairs were done to the heating. A radiator was removed and replaced with a smaller, longer unit. Part of the wall and radiator need to be painted. If anyone is willing to do this task, please contact me (lexow2@Yahoo.com) or Kim Adele at the church office (358-1297).

Thank you to all that everyone does for our parish!

*Kickie Fulmor
Chair, Standing Committee on Property*



PERMANENT FLOWER MEMORIALS

Flower memorials can be a meaningful way to honor the memory of a loved one. For a very reasonable cost (\$200) you can establish a permanent flower memorial that will be noted in our prayers and bulletin on a chosen date each year for whatever our "forever" may be.

If you'd like more information on establishing a memorial, you may contact the office at 358-1297, or Altar Guild president Sally Ann Mock (358-8014, samock34@aol.com). Note that there are no altar flowers during Advent and Lent.

GRACEFUL FRIENDS The Gay Straight Alliance of Grace Church

Notes from the June 30 informal working group meeting, led by, Evelyn Lombardi, Caren Pullen and Theresa Bergen.

At the first meeting of the newly reconstituted *Graceful Friends*, the group reviewed the long history of Grace Church support for the LBGT community highlighting the following activities and events:

In the late 80's creation of the AIDS Commission to work with TOUCH, (the Nyack community AIDS support organization).

Parishioners provided for those afflicted with AIDS:

Food pantry

Food delivery service

Buddy system for home visitation and companionship

Hospital visits with practical gifts during hospital stays in packages decorated by Church School students

Participation in Diocesan and local religious services

Grace Church became known for this good work and attracted members of the gay community as worshippers. This led to the formation of the "original" *Graceful Friends*, whose membership consisted of the LBGT members of our congregation.

Graceful Friends organized a community wide Dance in June 2001 as part of the celebration of Gay Pride Rockland and basically provided fellowship and support for each other over the following years.

In 2008, the Commission on Social Ministry, responded to a request to officially reconstitute *Graceful Friends* as a Gay Straight Alliance for the purpose of mutual support, education and the creation of fellowship opportunities for ALL who might be interested. This initiative met with Rector support and Vestry approval.

At this June 30 meeting it was noted that Grace Church has been the highly prized safe haven especially for children of gay and lesbian parents.

Next steps include forming and formalizing *Graceful Friends* into the fabric of Grace Church. One plan is to provide for a parish wide social event in late January as a start. Other sorts of events will be considered for religious and educational purposes.

The working group welcomes your suggestions and participation.

The next meeting of *Graceful Friends* is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00pm.**



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON RECORD AND IN ACTION AT THE 76th GENERAL CONVENTION

Here is a list of the actions of The Episcopal Church at the recent General Convention to *Grow the Church, Form the Faithful* and Change the *World*. Those reading this online can [click here](#) to go to the General Convention's website to read the full text of the final resolutions.

- ◆ We added a new role, lay evangelist, to the list of possible licensed ministries in our ministry canons (A065)
- ◆ We called for the creation of an “evangelism toolkit” to help congregations and dioceses reach out to under-represented groups. (A066)
- ◆ We called for a major strategic vision for outreach to Latino/Hispanic people (D038)
- ◆ We called for development of resources for formation in Episcopal identity and leadership in the church (B013)
- ◆ We adopted the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion as our five top strategic priorities (D027)
- ◆ We encouraged each diocese to enter into a companion relationship with a diocese of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, and to include a prayer for peace in each public liturgy. (D007)
- ◆ We called the church to speak out against domestic violence and for clergy and lay leaders to be trained in its prevention (D096)
- ◆ We affirmed access to the ordination process for all the baptized, and affirmed our commitment to and support of the Anglican Communion (D025)
- ◆ We approved full communion with the Moravian Church (A073) and an agreement for continued dialogue with the Presbyterian Church (A075)
- ◆ We approved an interim Eucharistic sharing with the United Methodist Church and starting a dialogue with the historic African American Methodist Churches (D054)
- ◆ We encouraged congregations to raise awareness of health ministry and implement health ministry as a vital part of their life (A077)
- ◆ We approved a charter for lifelong Christian formation (A082) and called for all dioceses to develop a strategy the lifelong Christian formation (A083)
- ◆ We called on the House of Bishops and Standing Commission on Music and Liturgy to develop an open process for church-wide participation in developing theological resources and liturgies for same-gender blessings, for consideration at the 2012 General Convention (C056)
- ◆ We adopted a new liturgical resource to assist individuals and families dealing with childbirth and the loss of children, *Rachel's Tears, Hannah's Hopes* (A088)
- ◆ We added additional commemorations to our calendar, *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* (A095) (A096)
- ◆ We established a mandatory lay pension plan for lay employees working a minimum of 1,000 hours in a congregation, diocese or other Episcopal church body. (A138)
- ◆ We approved a church-wide health insurance plan for all dioceses, congregations, and affiliated organizations of The Episcopal Church. (A177)
- ◆ We recommitted to being an anti-racist church (A143) and to research the church's complicity in the slave trade (A142)
- ◆ We reaffirmed financial support for Jubilee Ministries in the fight against poverty (A154)
- ◆ We agreed to restrict the use of bottled water at General Convention and to encourage church members to practice water conservation (A045)
- ◆ We approved the revision of the clergy discipline canons of Title IV, giving more emphasis to healing, repentance, and reconciliation (A185)



August 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parish Office: (845) 358-1297 Fax: (845) 358-1443
Rev. Richard Gressle, Rector – ext. 11
Rev. Emily Sieracki, Assistant to the Rector - ext. 12
Robert Barrows, Organist/Choirmaster – ext. 13
Bonnie Parsekian, Assisting Musician
Jennifer Marraccino, Church School Coordinator – ext. 14
Thayer Woodcock, Parish Administrator – ext. 10
Kim Adele Rosner, Property Administrator – ext. 17
Elaine Dempsey, Receptionist – ext. 10
GraceMusic – ext. 16 **Grace's Thrift Shop:** (845) 358-7488
Grace Church Website: www.gracechurchnyack.org
Grace Church E-mail: parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org
Newsletter Submissions: twoodcock@gracechurchnyack.org

Wardens

Moriah Olsen
moriahso@yahoo.com
Katharine Fulmor

Treasurer

Charles Richardson
Assistant Treasurer
Sally Ann Mock

Vestry

Linda Chisholm
Jim Cochran
Don Hammond
Victoria Hertz
Christine Howe
Neely McCormick
Jeff McDowell
Caran Pullen

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

The Episcopal Diocese of New York (Region II)
The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam, Suffragan

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH NYACK

The Rev. Richard L. Gressle, Rector
The Rev. Emily Sieracki, Assistant to the Rector

Assisting Clergy:

The Rev. Alan Chisholm, The Rev. Suzanne Hope Graham
The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mann, The Rev. A. Meigs Ross

Grace Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 – 4:00pm Friday 9:00-11:00am

WORSHIP SCHEDULE *(through September 6)*

Sundays

8:00am - Holy Eucharist - Rite One
10:00am - Holy Eucharist