



RECTOR'S LETTER

EPIPHANY 2009

Good People:

Some few years ago, Tom Brokaw did a television series on the generation which faced the Great Depression and the Second World War, a generation now disappearing by natural mortality. He called them, "The Greatest Generation," because they rose to two crucial challenges, kept their sense of justice (for the most part) and were willing to pay the price for what they believed was core to their lives. One problem with naming something as the "greatest" is that the next "greatest" may just come along and displace that accolade with a new reality and a new and even more difficult challenge. My feeble historical sense tells me that I live the good life I have because of that generation called "the greatest," whose had a sense of sacrifice which succeeding generations have translated into luxury. Now our generation faces a challenge. In the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what are we to do? Great or not, we have a great challenge.

One of the keys to understanding the Way of Jesus is to return to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: ff) and look at how the early Christians ordered their community. There were the core values of people who were transformed by the power of the Resurrection and had to live it. What seems impressive is how future oriented the three chapters of the Sermon read: live into the light of the future. The second vector is that the presumed world in which daily life is lived (food, clothing, cars, mortgage) is measured by the proposed world of God in this "new" Torah, this Sermon. Sacrifice is not in blood but in a distinct openness to both the interior community of Christians (called the 'beloved community') but also to the whole world since the Resurrection wasn't just for our family, tribe or nation. The Resurrection establishes a new connection between heaven and earth. Another piece not to be overlooked is that there isn't any blame in the Sermon on the Mount. "They," whomever They are don't show up very often, if at all. And of course this whole new order of Faith rests on trust: one either trusts that this is God's world or one is exercising the faith of a fool.

I have no idea how this generation will be judged by history, how we will be know and indeed, what sacrifices will we will be called upon to make. I do know that life will be different and t

hat there is going to be a rearranging of relationships: the roadways traveled by the Holy Spirit. But as our parish, community, Diocese, nations and the world face this crisis, I am going to keep my eye on the Sermon on the Mount and the Way of Jesus. I hope this parish community can carry such a spirituality into its life and mission.

May you see many Blessings,

Richard+

GRACE CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING UPDATE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009
at 10:30am

Services are at 8/9:30/10:00am

We are living in extraordinary economic times, and it will come as no surprise that as a church community we find ourselves confronting the same financial struggles many of us are facing in our personal lives.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be re-structured this year to provide an opportunity to review ministry, mission and support as the vestry considers important budgetary decisions for the coming year(s).

To make it possible for the widest-possible attendance at the meeting, our Sunday services will be at 8, 9:30, and **10:00am**, with the meeting taking place at 10:30am.

Please note that church school classes/childcare will take place and continue through 11:30am so that parents and teachers can attend this important gathering.

The Annual Report will be emailed to our general list early this week and will be available on our website or in printed format in the office beginning Wednesday, February 4.

CHURCH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Sunday, February 15 No Church School – off for winter break

GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL DAY OF SERVICE



Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the Grace Church School King Day of Service on Sunday, January 18th. Thanks for all of the donations of toiletries and baked goods, plus all of the hard work baking, bagging and making cards. Over 50 toiletry kits were created with

toothpaste, soap, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, lotions and hand-made cards. Dozens of home-made brownies, cookies and muffins were individually wrapped and are safely stored in the freezer. All of this is ready and waiting for the next time that Grace Church hosts Helping Hands in February. Community service is an important part of our church school curriculum. This project was a great way for our church school families to honor Dr. King's vision of the "Beloved Community" by bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together to improve lives.



UNDERSTANDING THE EUCHARIST

For children in 2nd – 5th grades

A curriculum designed to help younger members of our congregation appreciate the love of God we share and to aid them in better understanding the meaning of their participation in the Holy Eucharist. This 6 week program is designed for an adult to read the background material and engage in interactive experiences illustrating the particular theme. Program will include an introductory meeting on Saturday April 25th at 9:00am, a take home six week curriculum and a group baking of communion bread on Saturday May 30th at 1pm. The conclusion will take place during the 10:30 mass on Sunday, May 31. More information will follow in coming weeks.

BEFORE YOU START SPRING CLEANING — STOP

The Senior Youth Group will hold its annual Rummage Sale to raise funds for their year's mission trip to Appalachia. The event will take place on **Sunday, May 17**, so start setting aside your "treasures" now. No computers, printers, or monitors please!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Bring your pillows and blankets and come see the very funny family movie, *Evan Almighty*, on a big screen in Memorial Hall on **Friday, February 6 at 7:00pm**. Enjoy a great evening with friends and family while supporting this year's summer youth trip to Appalachia. In addition to the movie, there will be yummy refreshments and some exciting raffle prizes. We hope to see you! Info?

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 24 5:30-7:00pm

Shrove Tuesday, also known as "Fat Tuesday," or "Mardi Gras," heralds the beginning of fasting during Lent. Historically, there were feasts of pancakes to use up supplies of fat, butter, and eggs – foods originally prohibited during Lent. We invite you to begin reflecting on your Lenten commitments and to join in Grace Church's Shrove Tuesday celebration on **Tuesday, February 24, from 5:30-7:00pm**. Dinner will be prepared by this year's confirmands and crafts will be available for the kids.

Schedule of Events February



February 14 - Valentine's Day 'Night in Nyack'

Drop your children off with AGC! and enjoy a 'Night in Nyack' on your own with your loved one and/or friends. Your children will be safe, warm and having fun with the circus while you have a relaxed evening out. Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Place: Grace Church in Memorial (Circus) Hall. Cost: one child, \$15; two children from same family, \$18; three children from same family, \$20. Better/cheaper than hiring a babysitter. AGC! Youth Troupe members and Mr. Amazing will teach them how to do 'circus stuff.' Ages 5 - 14. Space is limited to 50 children. **Call Carlo Pellegrini at (845) 348-8740** to reserve your child's place for a 'Night in Nyack.' Advanced reservation - no walk-ups that night!

February 21 - 2nd Annual "Build-A-Circus"

Public event at The Nyack Center. 10:00am - 1:00pm. Football is over and baseball hasn't started. What are you going to do with your children on a wintry vacation morning and afternoon? Run away and join the circus for a day! AGC! will delight parents and children in an exciting, fun event in downtown Nyack. Everyone learns how to juggle, balance, perform classic clown routines, acrobatic acts, walk on the tightwire and perform human pyramids in their very own circus performance at the end of the workshop. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for parents to participate WITH their children. Reservations necessary. Cost: Adults get in FREE; \$25/Child; \$45/two children same family. Ages 5 - 18. Call Carlo Pellegrini at (845) 348-8740 to reserve your place. This is not a drop-off program. Workshop limited to first 100 people. Call today!

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NYACK, NEW YORK**

**Annual Parish Meeting
February 8, 2009**

AGENDA

1. OPENING PRAYER* (At conclusion of 9:30am Eucharist)
2. CALL TO ORDER
3. APPOINTMENT OF A SECRETARY
4. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS
5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
6. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
[POLLS OPEN]
7. ADJOURNMENT TO TIME CERTAIN
8. CLOSING OF THE POLLS
9. WELCOME
10. SENIOR WARDEN'S ADDRESS
11. SMALL GROUPS
12. PLENARY
13. RECTOR'S ADDRESS
14. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
15. BLESSING
16. CLOSING HYMN

Reports of Commissions filed in this report are available in the church office.

REMINDER:

You must be a pledging member of the parish to vote at the Annual Meeting. Pledge materials will be available at the check in-desk

**2009 Nominating Committee Report
Presented for election at the Grace Episcopal
Church Annual Meeting
February 8, 2009**

Vestry

3 Year term

Linda Chisholm
Neely McCormack
Jeff McDowell

Inter-Parish Council – 2 Year Term

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Diane Deveau
Evelyn Lombardi

Diocesan Convention Alternates

Mitch Pfenning
Claudia Uccellani

Nominating Committee

Pat Cose
Sally Mann
Debbie McGuinness
Kathy Sestak

Respectfully Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Retiring Vestry

Diane Deveau
Jeanette Matthews
Terence Rock

From the Congregation at Large

Karin Baere
Kim Cross
Leigh Holt
Jeanne Tozer

Moriah Olsen, Senior Warden, Chair

Biographies of Nominees

Linda A. Chisholm (Vestry)

A life-long Episcopalian, I have been a member of Grace Church since my husband Alan and I moved to South Nyack with our three young daughters thirty-three years ago. I have taught Sunday School, served on the vestry, the social ministries commission, the search committee for a new rector that chose Richard Gressle, as an alternate and delegate to Diocesan Convention, and headed the communications commission. I am now chairing the committee to expand the columbarium and develop further Memorial Garden. In 2006 I retired as President of the Association of Episcopal Colleges where I was founder and first General Secretary of Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion. I am now pursuing a long-time interest by studying Landscape Design at the New York Botanical Garden. Grace Church has provided a wonderful community of friends for me and my family, one which has supported us in time of need and challenged us to new ways of believing, thinking and acting. I value the loving and inclusive interpretation of Christianity. I cherish the association with people I might not otherwise have met. If elected to the vestry, I hope to be of use as we face the problems and opportunities that lie ahead.





Neely McCormick (Vestry)

Neely McCormick is an designer/artist who lives in Montebello with her husband Denny, and son Dakota. In addition to running her business, Special Affects and raising her son, Neely has spent much of her time participating in community and civic

activities. She headed the landscaping committee when serving on the Condominium Board where she lived in Suffern. As President of the PTA at Viola Elementary School she worked to develop the organization into a parent *and* teacher association and made the arts an important part of the PTA business. Neely has been active in Ramapo politics and helped to create the Historical Preservation Commission for the Village of Montebello. Most recently, Neely sits on the Board of Amazing Grace Circus. Neely was baptized and confirmed at Grace Church in 2002.



Jeff McDowell (Vestry)

I have been attending Grace Church since 2002 and was received into the Episcopal Church this past spring. I have been an acolyte and CB since early 2003 and a member of ASF for a number of years. I have also been coordinating the Men's

Prayer Breakfast for a year and a half. I grew up in Nyack, graduated from Nyack High School, Hartwick College and Teachers College, Columbia University. I have worked in real estate, as a consultant with a Human Resources Consulting Firm, but mostly as a College/University Administrator for most of the last 30 years - primarily at Jesuit institutions in Seattle, Detroit and Chicago. I currently work at LIU's Rockland Graduate Campus. My non work activities in addition to Grace include hiking, kayaking, and cooking. My other community activities have included - Friends of the Nyacks where I have been a co-vice chairman and chair of the program committee; Rockland Friends of the Clearwater where I was co-chair; and a member of the Nyack Library Board of Trustees. Pat Cose and I live in Nanuet.



Diane Deveau (Diocesan Convention Delegate)

My name is Diane Deveau, member of Grace Church since 1998, received in 1999. I was brought up in the Roman Catholic tradition, but have spent the last several years searching for spirituality that is

inclusive, thoughtful, and creative. I have been in spiritual direction for 5 years, explored the path of the Third Order Franciscans, and have sought out a variety of worship services to broaden my thinking and support me in my spiritual journey. Like the pragmatic Franciscans, I find God in the various tasks of living and prefer my prayer in the active tense. I do try to work on my quiet prayer life through meditation and reading. As a NICU nurse I am privileged to work with families in crisis, caring for their premature or sick babies. It is a gift to have work that is useful to others, meaningful to me personally, and exposes me to life's great joys and great sorrows every shift. I also enjoy my roles as wife, and mother of five children. I love the challenges and blessings a large active family brings, and find that I both teach and learn

from these relationships. I have been the Church School Director for three years, been involved in various youth activities, a member of the Parish Committee on Ordained Ministry, participated in formation of the Lit IV, and on Vestry the last three years. I would like to use my past participation and knowledge I've gained by serving as Convention Delegate.



Evelyn Lombardi (Diocesan Convention Delegate)

I look forward to serving as delegate to Diocesan Convention from Grace Church. I have been an active member of Grace for over 20 years, having served in a number of capacities, some more fun than others. I also

serve in a more limited way on committees of the Diocese dating back to 1995. I have attended Diocesan Conventions over the last several years as a volunteer to the Convention Planning Committee and consequently have a working knowledge of their business protocol. However, as a delegate, I will now be able to fully participate (speak to agenda items and vote) in the important work of our Diocese. Thank you for offering me this opportunity.



Mitch Pfenning (Diocesan Convention Alternate) – bio to come



Claudia Uccellani (Diocesan Convention Alternate)

I have been a member of Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack for about thirteen years. Shortly after arriving, I became involved in the youth activities of the church, initially as a church school teacher, then as the director

of the church school, and most recently as Chair of the Youth Commission. I also serve as a subdeacon at the 9:30 family service.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that Grace Episcopal Church is called by God to live the way of Jesus through a ministry of reconciliation, seeking to restore all people to unity with God and each other, through prayer, worship, spiritual growth, witness and action.

October 16, 2000

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Opportunities for Ministry

God calls and empowers all of us for ministry through our baptismal covenant. At Grace Church we are all invited to share our many gifts, working together in a spirit of mutuality, to extend God's kingdom of love and justice. **You'll find here an abbreviated listing of opportunities for action and spiritual formation within our parish. A complete list with expanded descriptions will be distributed at the Annual Meeting and available in the narthex of the church .**

Service Ministers: **Acolytes** are volunteers of all ages who serve at the altar assisting the priest during Liturgical services. They include: The **Verger** (Master of Ceremonies), **Thurifer** (maintaining incense), **Crucifer** (carrying a processional cross) and **Torch Bearer** (carrying a lighted torch) . **Chalice Bearers and Subdeacons** assist in the distribution of the cup during communion and lead the congregation in intercessory prayers. **Lectors** lead us in the reading of appointed lectionary lessons during services. **Children and young people are especially welcome to participate at the 9:30 am services.** **CONTACT: Fr. Richard (358-1297) or Evelyn Lombardi, Sacristan (358-4080)**

The Grace Church Choir was founded in 1886 as a vested choir of men and boys and now consists of 30 dedicated men and women whose repertoire runs from the early renaissance to commissioned works of contemporary composers. The Choir rehearses on Tuesdays at 8:00pm. **THE PARISH CHOIR** is an intergenerational ensemble which welcomes members from the **4th grade up**. The choir sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at the 9:30 service with a rehearsal at 9:00 am. **CHILDREN'S CHOIRS** have recently been incorporated into church school each week. Children aged 4 through 2nd grade sing in the **Joyful Noise Gospel Choir**, those in grades 3-5 form the **Saint Cecelia Choir**. Both groups sing during the 9:30 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and participate in special events. **CONTACT: Robert Barrows (358-1297, bbarrows@gracechurchnyack.org)**

The **ALTAR GUILD** is dedicated to looking after the sanctuary area of the church and chapel, preparing the altar for worship, and supervising seasonal church decorations and flower arrangements. **CONTACT: Sally Ann Mock (358-8014), or call the office.**

GREETERS welcome newcomers and visitors as they exit the church, answering questions about the parish, inviting them to coffee hour, and gathering information so they will receive our newsletter. **CONTACT: Sally Seiler Commission (358-8791), or call the office.**

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS serve refreshments during the fellowship time following the 9:30am and 10:30am service, providing an opportunity for parishioners to visit with each other and welcome visitors and new members. **CONTACT: the office**

USHERS perform an important ministry of hospitality, greeting and welcoming parishioners and visitors, distributing the bulletin and service materials, assisting in collection of the offering, and guiding communion flow. **CONTACT: Kelsey Graham (353-0816), or Fr. Richard.**

The **PASTORAL CARE TEAM** was created to support parishioners in times of need and joy, to enhance the existing ministry of the clergy, and to keep parishioners connected to the worshipping community. **CONTACT: Mtr. Emily).**

GRACE'S THRIFT SHOP is an active and very successful consignment shop that provides a valuable service to the community and generates significant income that is used to directly support community outreach programs, our diocesan assessment, and special church projects. Volunteers, drawn from both the Grace Church and the community, serve as desk and sales people, markers, and window dressers. **CONTACT: Sally Mann or Fran Sennas, Thrift Shop Co-Managers, at 358-7488.**

The Adult Spiritual Formation Commission develops programs that provide a setting in which our faith community can deepen an awareness of God's presence and strengthen a commitment to following the path of Christ. ASF meets on the second Saturday of each month. Programs include an occasional Adult Bible Study group, a Lenten program offering fellowship and classes for the entire family, and production of a collection of Lenten reflections by members of the parish. An Enquirer's Class, designed to answer questions about the Episcopal Church is presented each year and there are regular gatherings of the Men's Prayer Breakfast and occasional Parish Retreats. **CONTACT: Mitch Pfenning (914-441-7188 or mpfenning_3@hotmail.com)**

The Fellowship Commission fosters and nurtures fellowship in the church and community by providing opportunities for social interchange including the all-church picnic, parish Advent party, annual outing to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, receptions and social gatherings at Grace. You are welcome to work with us for one event or for many. **CONTACT: Stephanie Campbell (353-6418) or Vickie Frelow (358-3391), or call the church office (358-1297).**

The New Member Ministry Commission works to identify and welcome visitors to our church, and to help them become active members of the congregation. Activities are centered in two major areas: **Greeters**, who welcome newcomers at Sunday services and **Commission members** who make follow-up phone calls to visitors answering and working to connect new members to interest groups and ministry opportunities. **CONTACT: Sally Seiler at 358-8791**

The Commission on Social Ministries is the tangible presence of Grace Church in the community. The commission works to act on the charge to "go out into the world...feed the hungry, work for justice." We make donations to local non-profit agencies and three nights a month from January through April we provide shelter for the homeless in Memorial Hall. Each night we need volunteers to cook and serve a meal and provide overnight supervision. . Social Ministry coordinates the weekly food collection for People to People, and the monthly Midnight Run that makes lunches for the homeless in New York City. **CONTACT: Charlie Cross (358-4599, CORjj@aol.com)**

The Youth Commission assists in planning, coordinating, and implementing all youth programs in the parish including **The Church School**, which starts with pre-kindergarten and runs through 5th grade, Parents volunteer in a variety of ways, serving as **teachers, assistants, and helpers for special events.** The **Junior Youth Group (6th—8th grade); Confirmation; Senior Youth Group (9th—12th grade) ; CYSM** (Church Youth Service Mission) trip. Youth Commission members are involved in the planning and implementation of a variety of events, including the Christmas Pageant, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, and Way of the Savior. There are many different ways to be involved. **CONTACT: Commission Chair Claudia Uccellani (358-4228, uccell@yahoo.com) or Church School Coordinator Jennifer Marraccino (358-1297 ext. 14)**

FEBRUARY 2009 CALENDAR

SUNDAY, February 1— “Souper Bowl” Sunday

8:00am/9:30am/10:30am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Parish Choir/9:30 Senior Choir
10:10 Church School Classes/Adult Gospel Gab
11:30 Coffee Hour (Memorial Hall)
3:00pm Amazing Grace Circus rehearsal (Memorial Hall)
6:00pm Sunday Nite Lite (Bradley Chapel)

MONDAY, February 2

6:00pm Nursery School of the Nyacks (Patterson Hall)

TUESDAY, February 3

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)
12:15pm Clericus (Patterson Hall)
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)
7:00pm Diversity Workshop (Memorial Hall)
8:00pm Choir

FRIDAY, February 6

7:00pm Family Movie Night (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, February 8

8:00am/9:30am (baptism) /10:00am Holy Eucharist
9:30am Senior Choir
10:00 Church School Classes
10:30ANNUAL MEETING (Memorial Hall)
3:00pm Amazing Grace Circus rehearsal (Memorial Hall)
6:00pm Sunday Nite Lite (Bradley Chapel)
6:30pm Senior Youth Group (Bradley Chapel)

TUESDAY, February 10

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)
3:30pm Amazing Grace Circus (Bradley Chapel)
7:00pm Boy Scouts (Memorial Hall)
8:00pm Choir

WEDNESDAY, February 11

7:00pm Confirmation (Patterson Hall)

THURSDAY, February 12

7:00am Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Patterson Hall)

SATURDAY, February 14

9:00am Adult Spiritual Formation (Patterson Hall)
10:00am Midnight Run (Memorial Hall)
10:30am Commission on Social Ministries (Patterson)
6:30 AGC event
9:00pm Helping Hands (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:00am/9:30am/10:30am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Parish Choir/9:30 Senior Choir
Church School in recess
11:30 Coffee Hour (Memorial Hall)
6:00pm Sunday Nite Lite (Bradley Chapel)
9:00pm Helping Hands (Memorial Hall)

MONDAY, February 16

9:00pm Helping Hands (Memorial)

TUESDAY, February 17

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)
7:30pm Vestry (Patterson Hall)
8:00pm Choir

SATURDAY, February 21

9:30am - 4:30pm Chant Camp

SUNDAY, February 22

8:00am/9:30am/10:30am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Parish Choir/9:30am Senior Choir
11:30 Coffee Hour (Memorial Hall)
11:00am New Member Welcome Brunch (Rectory)
3:00pm Amazing Grace Circus rehearsal (Patterson Hall)
4:00pm GraceMusic presents Brass Rooves
Followed by reception in Memorial Hall
6:00pm Sunday Nite Lite (Bradley Chapel)
6:30pm Senior Youth Group (Bradley Chapel)

TUESDAY, February 26—Shrove Tuesday

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)
3:30pm Amazing Grace Circus (Bradley Chapel)
5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (Memorial Hall)
8:00pm Choir

WEDNESDAY, February 25—Ash Wednesday

Services at 7:30am/Noon/8:00pm

THURSDAY, February 26

7:00am Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Patterson Hall)

SATURDAY, February 28—Ski Trip

CHANT CAMP

Saturday, February 21 – 9:30am to 4:30pm

A day of medieval plainchant learning and singing with Susan Hellauer, singer, teacher, and founding member of the vocal quartet Anonymous 4. Ability to sight read music is helpful, but not necessary. Fee: \$35 morning session/\$60 full day. For more information, email ChantCamp@ChantVillage.com. Registration is limited.

GraceMusic presents

BRASS ROOTS TRIO—

Con Brío



A dazzling program, great fun!

Free child care available.

Meet-the-Artists reception follows.

Admission \$15, Seniors \$10, Students \$5

Sunday, February 22, at 4 p.m.

at Grace Church,

130 First Avenue, Nyack

845-358-1297 ext. 16

Baroque brilliance,
sultry jazz, decadent
tangos, gospel,
chamber music...
Copland, Piazzolla,
Gershwin, Mozart,
Brubeck, & more.

French horn, piano, &
trumpet with a sound like a
small orchestra.

FROM OUR NEW MEMBER MINISTRY COMMISSION

Throughout the year we see many new faces at Grace Church: families with children entering the church school, worshipers from out of town, newcomers to our community, family members visiting from afar, searchers for a spiritual home, music lovers, someone looking for a quiet place for prayer. Our team of greeters and hosts try to meet those who are new to extend a welcome, to answer any questions, to share information about the various services and programs at Grace. When there is a name and/or an address, we try to be in touch by phone or through a welcome letter. But sometimes, even with good intentions, someone is missed.

If you're a newcomer and haven't heard from our committee, let us extend a "Welcome" now and invite you to take part in some special activities coming soon: a brunch for newcomers (coming later this month), our midweek Lenten education program, an Adult Inquirer's Class later in the spring for those who want to learn more about the Episcopal Church, and other events on the calendar. Please contact the office at 358-1297, or fill out one of the pew cards with your contact information so that we can be in touch. We look forward to hearing from you! *Sally Seiler, New Member Ministry*

DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2008

The 232nd Convention of the Diocese of New York took place November 15 in Mahwah, New Jersey. This report from delegate Linda Chisholm just missed the deadline for our issue of The Messenger last month.

As the second Grace Church delegate, I want to report on the *unwritten* agenda of Diocesan Convention. I heard a few people, impatient with the sometimes tedious business items, suggest that the work of Convention could all be done on-line. I felt this way at times myself, but to do so would miss one of the Convention's most important dimensions—the chance to meet old friends and make new ones, to learn what is happening both in parishes around the diocese and personally with individuals, to see the bishops in a role different from that they assume when they come to the parish for confirmation, and to elect people to diocesan offices not only on the basis of their written resumes but by the way they are observed to interact with others. Our own Jeannette Matthews was handily elected -- why are we not surprised?-- to the position of Alternative Deputy to General Convention, to be held in Anaheim, California, in July, 2009. We learned --and grieved-- that the west coast house of the Order of the Holy Cross had burned in the Santa Barbara fire the night before convention and that the Order of St. Helena is moving from Vail's Gate, New York, to Atlanta. Bishop Don Taylor spoke of his coming retirement in the Spring, and announced he will return to his native Kingston, Jamaica to serve out his ministry there. The extended and spontaneous ovation he received was a moving testimony to him. I enjoyed seeing the young priests gather together as friends and colleagues. I myself reunited with people I have known but not seen for a long time. The Diocese of New York needs these times to be together, in communion.

Linda Chisholm

CARPENTER'S KIDS 2009 PILGRIMAGE DATES

Did you know that every year Carpenter's Kids offers a unique opportunity for members of linked parishes to travel to Tanzania to see the parishes and people being served through the program. Details on this year's pilgrimages follows.

2009 DATES

July 13-24

Clergy Lead – The Rev. Duncan Burns, St. John's Kingston

August 10-21

Clergy Lead – The Rev. Deborah Tammeau, St. Thomas' Mamaroneck

ESTIMATED COST:** \$3,000 includes airfare, hotel, ground transport breakfast dinner, and National Park visit.

TYPICAL ITINERARY:

- ♦ Fly JFK – Dubai – Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- ♦ Stay overnight in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
- ♦ Drive 6 Hours to Dodoma, Tanzania
- ♦ Stay in New Dodoma Hotel – private room & bath,
- ♦ Tour Diocese of Central Tanganyika,
- ♦ Three days visiting different linked villages
- ♦ Sports day – Carpenter's Kids from four linked parishes come for an informal day of games.
- ♦ Visit Msalato Theological College
- ♦ Final Farewell Dinner
- ♦ Table Discussions
- ♦ Drive 3 hours to Morogoro to stay 2 nights.
- ♦ One day visit to Mikumi National Park.
- ♦ Drive to Dar Es Salaam.
- ♦ Fly Dar Es Salaam – Dubai – JFK

For additional information contact at 914-420-8562 or Laurenckny@msn.com

Reflection

from a 2008 pilgrim:

If you had asked me as a child if I wanted to travel to Tanzania (still Tanganyika at that time!!), I would not have known what you were talking about. And now I miss the people I met and spent time with there as though I had lived there all my life. I felt a closeness to the children

and adult members of the Parish of Chamwino which I could not have anticipated. As I told them that day, I knew myself to be in what the Irish call —a thin place//, close to God in their presence, in that place. The arresting patience of the children as we were preparing to distribute their new uniforms was astonishing—and the joy and graciousness of the people who take care of them was infectious. I am supposed to describe this to people who haven't been there yet and I'm stuck with the old cliché: —Words cannot express what I



have seen.// I am profoundly grateful to have had this experience.

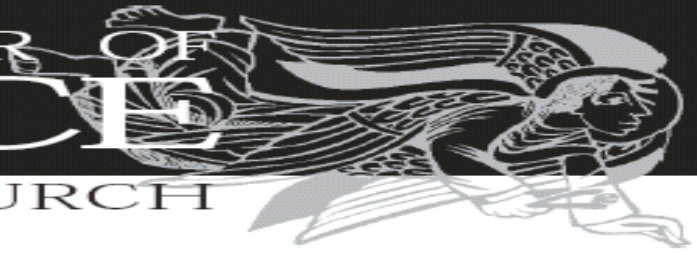
*Ellen O'Hara+, Rector,
St. Paul's Pleasant Valley*



For more pictures & information on 2008

Pilgrimages, go to: carpenterskids.homeunix.org:2934/08pilgrim.pdf

A MESSENGER OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FEBRUARY 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
Maija Kupris, 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

Jim Cochran
Diane Deveau
Don Hammond
Victoria Hertz
Christine Howe
Jeanette Matthews
Caran Pullen
Terence Rock
Geoff Torrens

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

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

Sundays

8:00am - Holy Eucharist - Rite One

9:30am - Holy Eucharist - Family Service

10:30am - Choral Eucharist

6:00pm - Sunday Nite Lite (Bradley Chapel)

Wednesdays 7:30am Holy Eucharist (Bradley Chapel)

Resumes Feb. 25