

# Grace Notes

THE NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



JULY/AUGUST 2007

VOLUME VIII, NO. 4

## *The Rector's Message . . .*

Dear People of God,

Since last November, Grace has been one of three churches participating in a diocesan pilot project on stewardship. We have been working with a consultant who has provided us with resources and advice on developing a year round stewardship program. "Stewardship all year round???!," you might well shout. But, yes, year round. But it isn't what you think. We have all been taught that stewardship is a fall thing about giving money. We equate stewardship with money and to talk about it once a year is enough. And you know what? It is. But that is not what stewardship is. I've tried to come up with another word, but in reality, understood by its proper definition, stewardship is the best word to use. We have always talked about our stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure, but we only focus on the treasure part. Year round stewardship means talking about all three aspects, giving each one equal time.

Our goal at Grace is to carry out our mission and ministry. Our mission statement says we are a caring, giving, Christian community providing opportunities for worship, prayer, study, and fellowship. What we give in time, talent, and treasure is what allows us to carry out that work. Everything we do is stewardship. Paying the oil bill that allows us to be comfortable in the winter and summer. Putting together the ditty boxes for the seamen at Christmas. Taking care of our buildings. Communicating with our community. Keeping things clean. Reaching out to the wider community. Planned giving to ensure

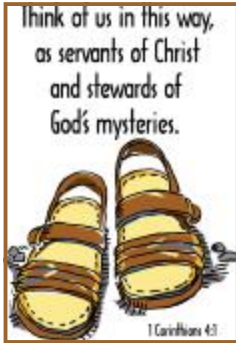


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that Grace will be here in the future. Hospitality to visitors and new people who join our family. Christian formation through education. Pastoral care. Everything we do, all of it is stewardship. But it doesn't just happen. We have to make it happen.



We are a blessed community in so many ways, and we are a caring, giving, Christian community. We give out of our blessings, and we give because we are in relationship with Jesus. So, when you hear the word "stewardship", don't think in the old way. Think in the new way. That is, we give because we have received so much, and what we give makes a big difference in our community. We at Grace make a difference.

Enjoy your summer. And think, "Ahh, stewardship. A great way to be community."

God's peace,  
Pastor Anna

**GRACE PARTICIPATES IN YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP**

Grace Episcopal Church has agreed to participate in a Diocesan pilot project to create a year-round stewardship program. A stewardship ministry committee has been formed to accomplish this goal. The members include: Pastor Anna, Cindy Larned, Richard Powell, Jane and Cam Martin. This group will provide the parish with a stewardship statement which will describe what the best stewardship program for Grace would look like and develop a plan to accomplish this.

for each of us, embracing time, talent, and money – not just an annual dollar amount pledge. We are being challenged to do some self-examination as we consider new ways to give thanks to God and this community.



This will be an ongoing education process for all of us. You will continue to receive information about the stewardship statement and our goals for the year-round stewardship program from the committee.

Submitted by Cam Martin  
Stewardship Chair

This is, for many of us, a new definition of the stewardship process. We generally think of our annual pledge campaign, when the word "stewardship" is used. However, under this new, broader definition, we will be asked to consider a greater involvement



*Check website link to keep current with Church Calendar dates!*

### *Vestry Briefs . . . . (from June 21, 2007 Mtg)*

- Vestry member Chris Raab, a physician, reported on his Uganda mission trip. Chris will be preparing a presentation about his trip for a future viewing. The rag dolls were very popular with the kids!
- Jeff Beck presented an abbreviated Treasurer's Report for a vacationing Bruce Phillips. Through May, we are approx. \$2,000 to the good. Jeff also reported that the Finance Committee is developing a framework that would designate and utilize fund raiser money more efficiently.
- Pastor Anna commented on and asked opinions from members regarding Lisa Slinkard's presentation on stewardship. Stewardship will be a topic for discussion and implementation throughout the coming year.
- Irv Hollingsworth reported on property concerns of carpenter bees harming roof of the church and a possible roof leak in the chapel.
- Rob Eppes submitted a detailed report on cemetery issues; one being that Grace Church is underpriced on burial spaces in comparison with other area cemeteries. He recommended increasing burial space costs by \$100-200 depending on membership status at Grace. The vestry approved the recommendation.
- Sandy Poplos announced that there will be an auction in the Fall.
- Grace Church has been approached by a Korean Presbyterian Church asking to use our space. This is being looked into.
- Vacation Bible School sign-ups are increasing and volunteers are still needed.
- Pastor Anna will be taking vacation in July, the end of August and the end of Sept.
- Vestry will meet on July 19 and August 16. A vestry retreat is planned for Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dates and times of events for the coming year should be brought to the next meeting for inclusion on the Church calendar.

#### MY DAD IS A FATHER

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar that way. The man, who was a priest, said, "I am a Father." The little boy replied, "My daddy doesn't wear his collar like that." The priest looked up from his book, and answered, "I am the Father of many." The boy said, "My dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and two grandchildren And he doesn't wear his collar that way." The priest, getting impatient, said, "I am the Father of hundreds," and went back to reading his book. The little boy sat quietly thinking for awhile, then leaned over, and said, "Maybe you should wear your pants backwards, instead of your collar. "



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## Study Commission . . . .



**Location: Grace Episcopal Church**

**Dates: Monday, July 30th — Friday, August 3rd**

**Time: 7:40 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

A very special VBS experience for children ages 3 to 11. Under Construction welcomes children to share Christian faith through service to the church and to the community. Children will discover the joy of Christian faith made more relevant through service to others. The program is biblically based, uses a construction theme,

and involves children in activities that teach the value of "building" Christian community and participating in outreach service missions. Program elements include Bible theme activities, worship, music, dramas, community stories, and special craft projects for the children. Please contact the church office 302-478-9533 or Brenda Trageser 610-368-5507 to register your child. *We are also in need of the following items:*

101 flat stones

1 4 ft dowel for banner

4 dowel rods

5 boxes of granola bars (no nuts please)

4 bags of Yogurt covered raisins

3 tubs of vanilla icing

colored crepe paper streamers (1 roll ea/5 bright colors)

2 bags of plastic jewels

2 plastic hard hats

5 boxes of Nutri grain bars

2 large containers of raisins

30 packs of juice boxes



Please call or e-mail the church office if you are able to provide any of the items listed above. The numbers listed are the total amount needed. One person does not need to sign up for the entire number listed. For example we need 30 packs of juice boxes, you can donate 1 or 30 or any amount in between. All donations will be gratefully accepted.



## Journey to Adulthood Youth Group (J2A)

Five Seniors from J2A will participate in a youth mission trip this Easter Break to the Caribbean. We will help build and repair housing in impoverished areas. Look for upcoming fundraisers to support these young adults. *Munchin' for a Mission* will go on once a month until February. We invite people to eat and get to know each other while we raise money. Dates will be posted in the next newsletter. We will beautify the church property by selling daffodil bulbs to the community.

J2A is a youth group for ages 13-18. If you know a child who would be interested in fun and reaching out to our community, call Sandy Poplos at 798-1711. We meet twice a month in our lounge.

## Caring Commission . . . .

### Results of the May Flea Market-

Thank you to all who broke their backs helping me with the flea market. Again, we are breaking records and making it bigger every year. This year we raised more than \$3,000 for our church. Plans are already in the works for next year. I can't say enough how much it means to me to see you all out there together, having fun!



### Take Note — Fall Auction!

This fall we will have an official auction. Start cleaning out the attic for treasures that would support this event. Items don't have to be very valuable; somebody just has to like it. We will be taking resale items and antiques. Items can be worth from \$20-unlimited value. Again, here is a way you can fulfill the stewardship campaign. Giving can be in many ways. Further information will be in the next newsletter regarding when you can start bringing in stuff. (examples: nice silver, lamps, clocks, jewelry, collectible toys, local items of interest, and paintings)

Submitted by Sandy Poplos

There will be a meeting for Greeters for the 2007-2008 year on **Sunday, August 26 at 9:30 a.m.** Greeting is a very important ministry at Grace and vital to our church growth. Greeters are the first faces a visitor sees when coming to Grace! Greeting is easy and fun — please plan to join us. We have 40 services to cover for next year. The more Greeters we have, the less often we each need to do it.



Good luck to **Sandy Poplos** on your new position as second grade teacher at the Odyssey Charter School that just opened in September!

Congratulations to new parents **Lisha Osborne** and **Betsy Parkins**! Little **Alexis Elisa Osborne-Parkins** arrived in the U.S. from Guatemala on June 22. Alexis is nine months old and very excited to be in her new home. Our best wishes to the new family!

**Marie Marshall** would like to thank the parishioners for all their prayers and support during the past year and a half. She has received two clean bills of health on her leg and on her lungs. Marie has completed her Physical Therapy Program and has started substituting at St. David's Preschool. Her next goal is to learn to drive with her left foot. Marie and her family thank God and you for your prayers.

Best Wishes to **Eileen LeClerc** and **Ruth Brown** on their new residences! Ruth has relocated from Claymont to southern Delaware, and Eileen is now living in Glen Mills, PA. Eileen is with us on Sundays, and Ruth promises to visit the Wed. worship svc. when she can!

### CALLING FOR ALL PICTURES!!

If you did not get your picture taken by Sandy Powell on June 3 or 10, please submit a photo of your family to the church office for inclusion in the 2007 pictorial directory. It would be preferable if the picture has been taken with a horizontal layout, rather than vertical. Send pix either via email in jpeg form or give the actual photo to the office to scan. Many thanks!

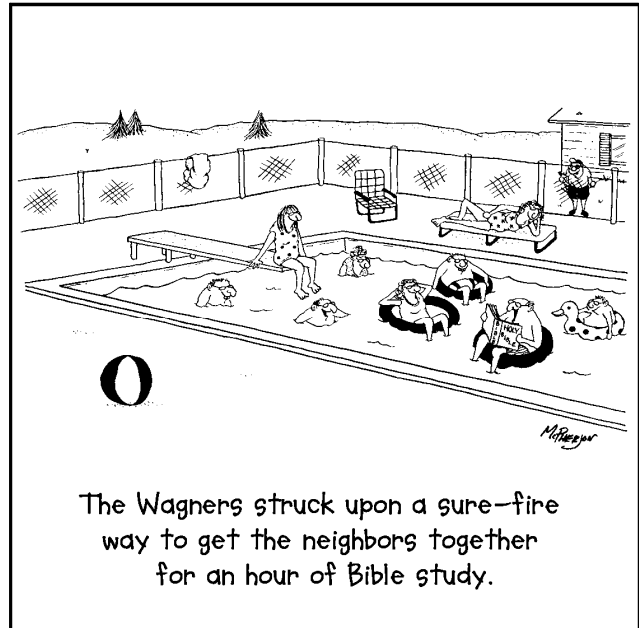


## Finance Committee . . . .

The Finance Committee hopes that you are enjoying your summer. The Committee has reviewed the finances of the parish through May, and is pleased to report that we have a surplus of approximately \$2,000 at this point. We have been managing expenses tightly, even though the price of oil and electricity is still high. At this point, we continue to forecast that we will meet our balanced budget for the year. We also want to remind those of you who spend time away from the area to please keep your pledges current. Historically, pledge receipts decline in the summer, which puts a strain on the budget. Your keeping current will help relieve any strain.

We have completed the 2004 audit of the Church's financials with no material issues. We hope that 2005 and 2006 audits will be completed this summer. The committee is supporting the stewardship campaign committee for its launch in the fall, working to develop the 2008 budget, and looking at improvements in control processes in the financial management of the Church and its programs. Wishing you God's peace and joy for the summer.

Submitted by Jeff Beck



The Wagners struck upon a sure-fire way to get the neighbors together for an hour of Bible study.

"When I die, I want to die like my grandfather-- who died peacefully in his sleep. Not screaming like all the passengers in his car."

--Author Unknown

**Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two aspirin" and "Keep away from children."**

--Author Unknown

**"If life were fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead."**

--Johnny Carson

"Everybody's got to believe in something. I believe I'll have another beer." -- W. C. Fields

UPDATES TO PARISH REGISER:

Transfer Out:

Bill and Vickie Innes to Aldersgate United Methodist, Wilmington

## A Little Chuckle for the Day

### VACATION FUN . . . .

Two priests decided to go to Hawaii on vacation. They were determined to make this a real vacation escape by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed they headed for a store and bought some outrageous shorts, shirts and sandals. The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their tourist garb. They were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a drop dead gorgeous blonde wearing a string bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare. As the blonde passed them she smiled and said, "Good Morning, Father. Good Morning, Father," nodding and addressing each of them individually; then she passed on by. They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests?

So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. They were so loud you could hear them before you saw them. Once again, in their new attire, they settled on the beach in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine. After a while, the same gorgeous blonde, this time topless with just a thong bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them, she said, "Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father," and started to walk away. One of the Priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, "Just a minute young lady." "Yes, Father?", she said. "We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world did you know we are priests, dressed as we are?"

"Father, it's me, Sister Margaret."



Sisters Mary Catherine, Maria Theresa, Katherine Marie, Rose Frances, & Mary Kathleen left the Convent on a trip to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and were sight-seeing on a Tuesday in July. It was hot and humid in town and their traditional garb was making them so uncomfortable, they decided to stop in at Patty McGuire's Pub for a cold soft drink. Patty had recently added special legs to his barstools, which were the talk of the fashionable eastside neighborhood. All five Nuns sat up at the bar and were enjoying their Cokes when Monsignor Riley and Father McGinty entered the bar through the front door. They, too, came for a cold drink when they were shocked and almost fainted at what they saw.



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**The Rev. Anna M. Waid, Rector**

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 Office Hours: Mon—Fri, 9 am to 1 pm

**Service Times:**  
 Sunday Holy Eucharist, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.  
 (Nursery is available at the 10:30)  
 Godly Play, 10:15 a.m.  
 Tweens & Teens, 10:15 a.m.  
 Wednesday, Eucharist/Healing Service, 12 Noon



[www.graceepiswilmde.org](http://www.graceepiswilmde.org)



**Monday**  
**Aug. 27**

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