



The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

Priest-in-Charge's Letter

And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3.13

Dear Friends in Grace,

Happy New Year! This "Incarnation" issue of the Angelus marks the beginning of the Christian Year, the annual cycle based on the life of Jesus. The first quarter of the year is the Season of the Incarnation – from the first Sunday of Advent through the last Sunday of Epiphany. It is a season of expectation and fulfillment; of looking inward to ready our souls that we may with greater joy look outward and receive and embody Jesus anew.

At Grace Church we are primed for this Season! Since the Interim began three years ago, we have been preparing for a New Day at Grace. This year, 2010, it will be fulfilled. We didn't expect it would take this long to find a new Rector, whose coming will powerfully signal a new chapter of community life. But apparently there was healing and learning that needed more time, and much has transpired. We have tracked progress and reviewed details along the way in other letters, reports and parish meetings.

Now it is time to focus on the blessings of the past three years and the promise of the year to come: a renewed Parish Hall, a beautifully painted sanctuary and state of the art climate control throughout; welcoming Sunday School rooms filled with children's furniture – including pristine bassinets and a lovely rocking chair – beautiful toys, plentiful art supplies, an ample supply of educational resources, caring teachers and clean, bright rooms. And more. We are ready to welcome the Christ Child's birth with angelic heralds of spiritual revival and great joy!

The new Episcopal/Anglican Welcome sign is hung out front; the gardens have bloomed from spring through fall. And because the Holy Spirit is brightening our expectations with new energy and light, we are suffused with a holy hope: *may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness*, Paul wrote to the early Christians who awaited Jesus' return. So the Spirit speaks to us today.

What they didn't know was that *Jesus was being born in them*, in the Holy Body of his Church, and would be re-born countless times in the millennia to come. Here we are in 2010, readying the search committee to receive names of priests who feel called to this Grace-full Body of Christ. And the Diocese has a generous new assessment formula - just in time - encouraging financial recovery for us and for all, that all may be blameless - rich, poor & in-between - to receive Jesus in humility and joy.

Let us ready ourselves in hope and joy. Come; let us prepare to adore Him anew!

Jane +

News at Grace

The Grace Church/Barnes & Noble Tag-Estate Sale & Book Fair, long anticipated, heavily promoted, & generously embraced, was by all measures a resounding success. Due to the inclement weather, all tables and vendors were moved indoors. The participating vendors Abena African Fashions, Karen Fields, Lauren Reid, Maria Romea, Tyson Jewelry and the Grace Church sales tables did brisk business until closing time at 4:30 p.m.

Over at the bookstore, the Grace Church presence was palpable and audible. Children from our Sunday School and some friends, led by Victoria Carter-Davis and her Percussion Ensemble participated in story time activities. The charismatic story readers Donna Graves and Jeanette Adams delighted the youngsters. A scavenger hunt followed, overseen by Father Titus and Sylvia Simon, whom divided the 1st and 2nd Prize gift cards among the "hunters" who decided to cooperate rather than compete in the hunt. (There's a lesson in there for us grown-ups.)

A wonderfully eclectic program of music, orchestrated by our Director of Music, Tim Lewis, wafted over the shoppers in the book store from late afternoon into early evening. Our young people gave outstanding performances; William Heffner at the piano, Anaiz Reynoso in solo and with the St. Nicholas Choir. The adults were superb. Norene Bueti, Celeste and Tom Jamerson, familiar soloists on Sundays, presented a program of music from Broadway. The Grace Church Choir performed Duke Ellington. An intergenerational troupe of costumed dancers from La Gracia, under the direction of Peter Roberts, stirred the audience with an Elizabethan Sword Dance. Downtown Music at Grace was represented by flutist Pamela Sklar and Jack Wilkins on guitar in exciting performances that delighted all.

Business in the store was robust. By day's end, shoppers using the Grace Church vouchers had purchased \$3,800 worth of merchandise. The Tag Sale total was almost \$2,000.

The success of the event is a tribute to the many volunteers who gave tirelessly - the members of the Welcome Committee: Althea Collins-McNeil, Natalie Davy, Hillary Fleming, Carmen Greenidge, Clyde Hicks, Linda Heusser, Judy Hutton, Dorothy Jackson, Carole Lashley, Donna Louis, Eileen McLean, Cecilia Peagler, Sylvia Simon; to non-committee members who "manned" stalls and/or provided assistance: Carole Carter, Gloria Chang, Dale Chung, Marielia Diaz, Edith Gomez John Kalinowski, Dorothy Peters, Joan Rainford, Carmen Roberts; the youngsters of J-2A who serviced the food stall and distributed vouchers from strategic locations when not performing at the book store or working at the church: Rudy Breach, Christopher Collins-McNeil, Matthew Gallo, Meg Graves, Eric Louis, Scott Louis, Anaiz Reynoso. We are indebted to the members of Buildings & Grounds, especially Clyde Hicks and Walter Simon for hours of physical labor; and to Michael Heffner for publicity updates on the website.

Many "thank-you's" to our church staff whose support was invaluable: to Mother Jane, along with Fr. Titus, who multi-tasked between events; to Sandy Gustaferra who provided services well beyond her job description; the sexton Taurino Juarez, an enthusiastic problem-solver and Roosevelt Mitchell, a willing helper; to the security guard Burnett Kirkland who was always ready with a crucial key.

Last, but not least, to those unnamed members of Grace and La Gracia who generously donated items, who vigorously publicized the book fair, to those who were unable to attend the event but mailed in a financial contribution, to those who shopped: ALL your support made this event a success!

Verna Brown, Welcome Committee Chairperson

Book Club kicks off 10th Year and a New Season

During the last 10 years, book club members have climbed the world's deadliest mountain and made heartwarming discoveries along the way, taken a front row seat to dissect a diva's life, relived a family's ruthless quest for power and fortune in England's 16th century Tudor dynasty, and followed clues to solve curious cases with Botswana's number one lady detective, among other adventures through the books we've selected.

If you're curious about our literary journeys and are interested in traveling on your own, we've created a unique fun way to make the books accessible—we built a library within a library. Thanks to an idea spearheaded by member Verna Brown, select book club books donated by members are now available on a first-come first-served basis on the top left bookshelves in the church library. To check out a book, simply find and sign the appropriate sign-out sheet in the marked binder shelved with the books. When finished, simply return the book to the bookshelf. So, if you've ever thought, 'I'm going to read that book club book one day,' ...it couldn't be easier!

The book club kicked off the 2009/2010 season with a review of **Stormy Weather: The Life of Lena Horne** by James Gavin and Dan Brown's latest, **The Lost Symbol**. Our collective ratings:

Stormy Weather: 3 stars out of 5 **The Lost Symbol:** 3 stars out of 5

Although our monthly discussions are always lively and thought-provoking, one of our favorite traditions is casting a movie version of the book. After extensive brainstorming, we never reached a consensus on the actor to play **The Lost Symbol's** central character, Robert Langdom (a role brought to life by Tom Hanks in **The Da Vinci Code** movie) we had no shortage of suggestions: Jude Law, Matthew McConaughey, Kevin Costner and Hugh Jackman. Our picks for the female lead and remaining supporting roles:

Katherine Solomon	Kate Winslet
Peter Solomon	Harrison Ford or Richard Gere
Inoue Sato	Linda Hunt
Zachary Solomon	a young John Malkovich

With more to explore, our selections on tap for the season include a proposed parish-wide read of **Daughters of the Stone**, a novel focused on "a long-line of extraordinary Afro-Puerto-Rican women silenced by history," in a first-time partnership with La Gracia. The author, Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa, has generously offered to discuss her compelling story with us on Sunday, April 18, following Mass.

The selections for the coming year are:

BOOK CLUB 10th YEAR – cont.

True Compass: A Memoir by Edward M. Kennedy (Jan 12)

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett (Feb 9)

Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (Mar 9)

Daughters of the Stone by Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa (April 18 – Sun.) *parish-wide reading*

The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family by Annette Gordon-Reed (May 11)

In the Beauty of the Lilies by John Updike (end-of-season luncheon, date & place TBD)

The Search for God at Harvard Ari L. Goldman (summer 2010, fall discussion, date TBD)

The White Queen by Philippa Gregory (summer 2010, fall discussion, date TBD)

The Help by Kathryn Stockett (October 2010)

Remember, our meetings are always open—whether or not you’ve read the book, feel free to join us on any of our journeys!

- Karen Odom

PARISH WIDE MEETING
With Reverend Canon Tom Orso

The November 8th visit was welcomed by unusually warm fall weather. Along with Mother Jane and the Vestry, Canon Orso held a Question & Answer session about the process behind a search for a new rector. He distributed a “Deployment Quiz” for those in attendance. With his 30 years of service, he affectionately joked and reflected on the many facets of calling a new priest. He explained that a Bishop requires a vestry unanimously call a priest. Since that did not occur, the process continues. There were many questions, and a lot to take in and consider.

The quiz was extremely informative, and it answered many of our questions and most of our concerns. What I took away most was the importance of {paraphrasing what Rev. Orso eloquently stated;} the mutual study of ministry is the vestry, warden and priest to work together. His experience in conflict management came across. The quiz was an eye-opener, particularly the last 3 answers. Essentially, over half of the congregations in our diocese are seeking a new rector. Of those available positions, over 70% are filled by candidates from outside of the diocese.

Equally thought-provoking was the estimation that, of the active clergy serving in the Episcopal Church, approximately one-third will retire within the next four years (priests must retire by age 72). Afterwards, many attended the “Brunch with Grace” at La Bocca across the street. It was a lovely affair and the food was delectable. Thank you to Sylvia Simon and all those who made it possible. See for yourself on the next page.

- C.S. Brown

“brunch with grace” at LA BOCCA

Pictures taken by Jane Washington



Figure 1 Mo. Jane & Canon Orso



MUSIC NOTES

Give the Gift of Music this Christmas

Grace has traditionally welcomed the birth of Christ with Christmas Eve music for brass quartet and organ. It would be wonderful to do so again this year, but we need your help to make it possible. \$2500 will need to be raised by December 15 to keep this joyous tradition alive. If you have helped in the past, or are new to supporting our parish music program, we hope that you will be moved to give this year. Offerings may be made in thanksgiving, or as a Christmas memorial. Please place funds in an envelope clearly marked "Christmas Music", along with the names of those you wish remembered, and place in the collection plate or give to Tim Lewis.

Annual Service of Lessons and Carols, December 20 at 4 PM

Our annual service of Lessons and Carols will be held on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, at 4:00 p.m. Our Grace Church Choirs will be joined by members of the U.S. Military Academy Band as we sing carols for eight part brass and organ. The Christmas story will be told in a series of readings offered by members of the Grace Church community. A catered reception in the parish hall will follow. No tickets are required, but an offering will be taken to benefit the music programs at Grace. This is a terrific opportunity to invite friends, but come early as last year's service was standing room only.

Young People Encouraged to Join our St. Nicholas Choir for Christmas

Our St. Nicholas Choir invites young people, ages seven and up, to sing for both our annual service of Lessons and Carols on December 20, and our family liturgy on Christmas Eve. No previous singing experience is necessary, but attendance at Thursday rehearsals (4:45-5:45 p.m.) during the month of December is a must. Young people are invited to speak with Rudy Breach, Sam Brown, Meg Graves, Brianna Parkinson, or Anaiz Reynoso for more information. Their parents are invited to contact Tim Lewis at 949-2874 ext. 18 or Tlewis@gracewhiteplains.org

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH DOWNTOWN MUSIC

Wed., Dec. 2 at 12:10pm Ensemble Breve plays Baroque Music from Germany, France and Italy. Free.

Sun., Dec. 6 at 4:00pm Members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra play the Piano Quintet in E-Flat Major, Opus 16 of Beethoven and other works. Pre-concert talk begins at 3:30. A catered reception follows the concert. Tickets are \$25. Supported by a generous grant from the Reimss Fund of the Westchester Community Foundation.

Wed., Dec. 9 at 12:10pm Leann Nicole Osterkamp, prize winner of the NY International Piano Competition and 2009 Presidential Scholar for the Arts, plays a program of personal favorites. Free.

Wed., Dec. 16 at 12:10pm Angelica offers a program of Christmas music for women's voices. Free.

Sun., Dec. 20 at 4:00pm Festival of Carols for Christmas featuring members of the West Point Brass and the Choirs and Soloists of Grace Church. *Donations gladly accepted.*

Wed., Dec. 23 at 12:10pm Celebratory Music for Brass and Organ featuring the West Point Brass and organist Timothy Lewis. Free.

- Tim Lewis

People at Grace

Gone to Glory

Rev. Wesley Konrad,
Rector of Grace Church
from 1969 to 1974, passed
away peacefully at his
home in North Carolina,
on November 9th

The Angelus Grace Church Quarterly Newsletter White Plains, NY

Priest-in-Charge Mother Jane
Butterfield
Editor Cynthia S.
Brown
Contributor Elsie Adams
Music Notes Tim Lewis

Do you have an idea for an
article or a picture you wish to
include? See me during Coffee
Hour after the 10:00 am mass or
contact me via email at:
c_sangurima@yahoo.com

Thank you, Cynthia

Newcomer Bookmarks Are a Hit!

For as long as anyone can remember, Grace Church has welcomed visitors through its bright red doors. Whether they come with friends, return as adults, or visit us through Downtown Music, they do come.

And for those visitors who transform into parish newcomers, there has been – at least as long as I've been here – some kind of newcomer gift. A few years ago, there were cranberry colored folders – in English and Spanish – filled with information about our programs, committees and staff. Previously, there were ceramic mugs, printed with our “mascot”, the Peace Dove, and our address.

This year, the Welcome Committee, led by Verna Brown, decided to do something different. Rather than folders or mugs, both of which can be costly as well as unwieldy to carry, we decided on bookmarks. Small, versatile and most of all – personalized with the spirit of Grace Church.

That spirit is conveyed in four original, delicate and beautiful works of Chinese Brush Art. They were created by Louise Holsapple, a longtime member of our parish. Louise graciously agreed to design these bookmarks, which carry our address and “tagline” – *O taste and see...* on the backs. ***Many thanks to Louise for sharing her talent with us.***



Louise Holsapple & Hillary

While the bookmarks are gifts for our newcomers, the Welcome Committee suspects that they are something all parishioners would like to have; so they will be for sale over the next few weeks during coffee hour. They are wonderful keepsakes and are excellent additions to any Christmas gifts that include books.

- Hillary Fleming

November, A Month of Significance

Twice we are provided an opportunity to express gratitude for the precious gifts of life and our Savior's birth. Webster's Dictionary defines the fourth Thursday as a legal holiday to be observed by giving thanks for divine goodness. Our church calendar designates Thanksgiving as a holy day to give thanks for what we have, what we have had, and what we hope to have.

November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent, marking the beginning of this sacred season when we remember, humbly honor, and give thanks for the coming of the Christ Child. Not only are we to acknowledge and give thanks but to keep the momentum going by: (1.) accepting everyone as children of God and (2.) sharing with others less fortunate. Upon further reflection, we may:

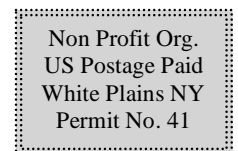
Anticipate with joy
Venture forward with FAITH
Every real need will be met
Never question God's Presence - do not doubt
To the faithful comes the promise
Gratitude is the priority

Acceptance is next. Determination to give back is the third step on the path toward positive life experiences - to thank God for His blessings everyday, in every way.

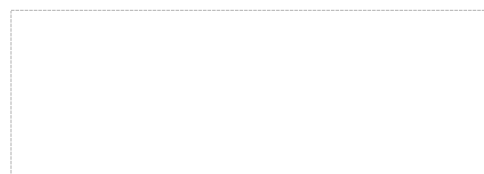
- Elsie Adams



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