



Bread for the Journey

Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood

Summer / Fall 2019

Summer of Grace



ECM Summer Celebration: June 21 at Grace



24th Annual Youth Mission Trip: June 2-9, Des Moines, Iowa



The Rev. Michael Kurth comes home to Grace: July 14



Office volunteers Katie & Bets: July 12



Summer Sunday School Gardeners: June 22



Celebrating Holy Baptism at Grace: Pentecost—June 9

Inside this issue:

Confirmation at Grace	page 2
Bishop Search	page 3
Our Journey Continues	page 4
Happening at Grace	page 5
Praying in the Desert	page 6
Dismantling Racism	page 7
Shepherd's Center	page 8
Fisher House	page 8
United Thank Offering	page 9
Personal Reflections	page 10-11
Back-2-School	page 12

Grace Episcopal Church

514 East Argonne Drive
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-821-1806
www.GraceKirkwood.org



Worship with us:

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
1st Sundays at 5 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:

Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Bread for the Journey

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Grace Episcopal Church

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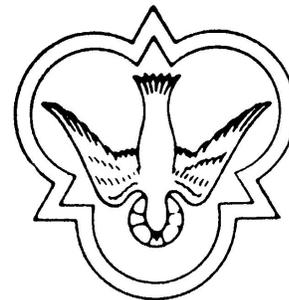
Bread for the Journey is a quarterly publication of Grace Episcopal Church. If you have a story or pictures you would like published in an upcoming edition, please contact the church office.

Confirmation Service at Grace

Grace Church will host this sacramental service January 12, 2020

For the first time in many years, Grace youth and adults will have an opportunity to reaffirm their faith in front of their own parish family, as we host a confirmation service at Grace Church.

Confirmation is the rite in which baptized Christians express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. Bishop George Wayne Smith will be making his final visit to Grace January 12, 2020, before retiring next spring (see story on page 3). We have decided to prepare this year's class to be confirmed at that visit.



While baptism is considered full initiation in the Church, it is *expected* that all adult members make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism.

Confirmation is a very important step in any Christian's life. Baptism often happens when we are too young to make the decision for ourselves. Confirmation is a time for you to stand up in front of your family, friends and God and tell everyone: *This is what I believe!*

Adults who have been confirmed by a bishop in another Christian denomination may choose to be **received** into the Episcopal Church. If you are returning to the Episcopal Church following a time away, you may wish to **reaffirm** your commitment.

Grace will offer two confirmation tracks this fall - one for youth and another for adults. We will meet weekly to complete the programs in time for the January confirmation service:

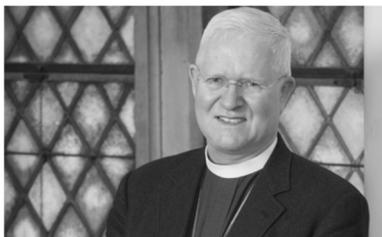
- ⇒ **Youth Confirmation** (8th grade and older)
Sunday, Sept. 8 / 9 - 10 a.m. - Students AND parents meet with Fr. Todd
Sunday, Sept. 15 / 9 - 10:30 a.m. - Classes begin
- ⇒ **Adult Confirmation**
Sundays, 9 - 10 a.m. (start date to be announced)
Our program will be based on the book *Walk In Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*, by the Revs. Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe.
(This class is also open to anyone who is already confirmed, but wishes to deepen their faith.)

We hope all non-confirmed members will take advantage of this opportunity and join our parish family in making a public affirmation of faith.

Please contact Fr. Todd in the church office for more information on our youth and/or adult confirmation programs.

The Search for our Next Bishop

The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith has served as the 10th Bishop of Missouri since 2002 and will be retiring in 2020.



We will elect the 11th Bishop of Missouri at our diocesan convention, November 22-23.

A lot has to happen before that election! Grace member Dick Entenmann is serving on the Bishop Search Committee. “When I volunteered to be part of the selection process for our 11th bishop, I thought I knew what I was signing up for,” Entenmann said. “After attending our first team meeting December 1, 2018, I knew that this was going to be a new experience.”

Dick and other members of the Search Committee have conducted surveys and visited all the parishes in our diocese to get input from church members. “The thing that I took away was the common themes in the responses we received. Our diversity as a diocese may seem daunting on paper, but I can assure you that we are very much alike when it comes to following Jesus and exploring God’s calling where we are,” Entenmann said. “Parishes responding to the needs found in our various communities within the diocese are alive and well.”

The Bishop Search Committee and the Transition Committee have put together a timeline to meet our goals. You can keep up with all the news and be involved in the process on the diocesan website: diocesemo.org.

Bishop Smith’s Final Visit to Grace

**Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020
10 a.m.**

Join us as we thank Bishop Smith for his service to our diocese and celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Confirmation.

Timeline

August: The Search Committee is interviewing applicants.

September 16-19: Top applicants will come to St. Louis for a retreat with the Search Committee and other diocesan leaders.

September 26: The Search Committee will present a slate of three to five candidates to the Standing Committee. The candidates’ names and biographical information will be published.

November 4-7: Everyone will have a chance to meet the candidates at “walkabouts” at parishes around the diocese (times tba):

- ⇒ Monday, Nov. 4:
Christ Church, Cape Girardeau
- ⇒ Tuesday, Nov. 5:
Trinity, Central West End
- ⇒ Wednesday, Nov. 6:
Calvary, Columbia
- ⇒ Thursday, Nov. 7:
St. Timothy’s, Creve Coeur

November 22-23: Convention delegates will elect the next bishop at Diocesan Convention. Grace’s delegates are Lyn Ballard, Betty Bowersox and John Dotson. Chris Ludbrook is our alternate delegate.

March 28, 2020: A celebration of Bishop Smith’s leadership will be held at Christ Church Cathedral. There will be an opportunity for members to contribute gifts of gratitude for Bishop George Wayne and Debra Smith.

April 25, 2020: All are invited as we welcome the 11th Bishop of Missouri! Ordination and consecration of our new bishop will take place at St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Catholic Church in St. Louis. A celebration will follow at the Polish Heritage Center, on the same grounds.

Our Journey Continues...

Seeing early benefits from our capital campaign

Thanks to everyone who is participating in our capital campaign. So far our pledges total \$641,648. Your pledges will have a positive impact on Grace Church in the near future — and for generations to come!

Your first fruits offerings (the money already received) have allowed us to fully pay all campaign expenses and fund the lighting project for our worship space. We are in the process of developing requests for proposals (RFPs) for new wiring, a new control panel, and new LED lighting in the nave. The days of squinting to see your worship bulletin in the pews are almost over! This lighting project will quite literally brighten our time with God.

“Thank you to everyone who has made their first fruit payment. This has enabled us to go full-steam ahead into the lighting project,” said the Rev. Todd McDowell, Rector of Grace Church. “Your early contributions are always appreciated and will allow us to fuel the accounts ahead of schedule.”

As we receive the remaining balance of your pledges,

your donations will be allocated quarterly to the accounts as promised in the campaign: 70% to the Building and Grounds Legacy Fund; 10% to the Outreach Legacy Fund; and 10% will help pay down our debt. The debt repayment balance will be held in a money market account until all donations are received so we can make

only one payment to the loan balance.

The REACH team will be regularly meeting and reporting to the congregation for the next three years until the campaign pledges are complete. That team of

volunteers is made up of Jane Cenova, Doug Mars, Chris Mars, Mike Heyer and Lyn Ballard.

Please note the table below for details on the allocation of funds, as of June 30, 2019. If you have any questions about the campaign or where the money is going, please contact Fr. Todd McDowell or Treasurer Tim Engelbrecht.

If you have not yet had a chance to make a pledge, please contact the church office.



Our Journey Continues... Capital Campaign Financial Update

Campaign total pledges received (less 5% reserve and expenses)	<u>\$559,082.44</u>
Total funds collected (as of June 30, 2019)	<u>\$168,006.26</u>

<u>Distribution Summary:</u>	<u>Allocation Percentage</u>	<u>Total \$ Allocation</u>	<u>YTD Total Distributions</u>	<u>Balance to be Distributed</u>
Lighting	10%	\$ 55,908.24	\$55,908.24	\$ 0.00
Legacy Outreach	10%	\$ 55,908.24	\$ 4,168.56	\$ 51,739.68
Debt Repayment	10%	\$ 55,908.24	\$ 4,168.56	\$ 51,739.68
Legacy Building & Grounds	<u>70%</u>	<u>\$391,357.71</u>	<u>\$29,179.90</u>	<u>\$362,177.81</u>
	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$559,082.44</u>	<u>\$93,415.26</u>	<u>\$465,667.18</u>

Happening at Grace

Property projects, staff changes and outreach grants

Property Projects:

It's been a busy summer at Grace Church, with our building and grounds receiving some much needed improvements, repairs and tender loving care.

- **Albright Parish Hall:** The flat roof has been replaced and the mold/mildew has been cleaned from the exterior stone walls.
- **Stained glass windows** (overlooking our worship space): Plexiglass was removed from the exterior and the window frames were re-caulked and painted. We're getting bids to make repairs to the windows (when funding is available).
- **Landscaping:** Walter Knoll Florist has cleaned and updated garden beds in front gardens and in the memorial garden. Member volunteers are "adopting" garden beds around our property to help with maintenance.
- **St. Matthew's Spire:** All materials have arrived and the electrical and irrigation lines are being installed to finish the spire project.



Staff Changes:

Janis Greenbaum, Grace's Director of Christian Formation and Communications, is leaving her job at Grace to be the Communications Director for the Diocese of Missouri.

"I'm excited to be a part of the big changes happening in our diocese," Janis said. "But I will miss seeing you all every Sunday!"

Janis has been a staff member at Grace since 2011. Her last day with us will be Sunday, Aug. 25. Please join us as we celebrate our Back-2-School Sunday and Janis' years of ministry with us.



As we make this transition in staffing, please email your communications requests to:

communications@gracekirkwood.org.

News from Grace's Outreach Committee:

- ⇒ Women of Grace's 2019 Mother's Day Food Drive for Kirk Care brought in 42 bags of groceries, \$380 in cash and \$250 in gift cards.
- ⇒ Our parish provided \$500 to Episcopal Relief & Development for flood relief.
- ⇒ We granted \$2,000 in cash, plus more than 400 school supply items to this year's SPROG summer camp.
- ⇒ Grace Church was pleased to host Episcopal City Mission's Summer Celebration, June 21. Money raised at this family-friendly event supports ECM's chaplaincy program for youth in St. Louis area detention facilities.
- ⇒ Grace members Mary Merriweather, Becky & Tom Coulter, Jean Heimos and Scott Sisul hosted a monthly birthday party with Episcopal City Mission for youth in the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center on June 7.
- ⇒ We are collecting travel-sized toiletry items to be distributed at Trinity Episcopal Church's Food Pantry in the Central West End. A collection box will be in Kean Library for your donations throughout the summer.
- ⇒ Grace volunteers continue to provide a hot lunch to our neighbors in need on the second Sunday of every month with the Trinity Hot Lunch program. Contact Grace member Debby Pidgeon (debbypidgeon@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to get involved.

Praying in the Desert

A reflection by Lucinda Cobb



I don't know about you, but I've been praying for our country a lot lately. I also find myself grumbling at the news. I send angry emails to elected officials. And though I fret about our government constantly, I am wary of discussing my fears

with anyone whom I don't consider "safe" to talk to. It can be pretty divisive. In some groups, it also can be pretty lonesome.

Meanwhile, the Book of Common Prayer offers prayers for world leaders and peace in the world, which are echoed each Sunday in the Prayers of the People. We pray for justice, truth and righteousness, but we do not always agree on what justice, truth and righteousness look like.

Rabbi Ruth Adar, a cherished friend since high school, posted this prayer (printed to the right) on her "Coffee Shop Rabbi" blog. When I told her how much it spoke to me, Ruth mentioned that the phrases she quoted are from Exodus 34:6-7, when the ancient Israelites also were in turmoil as they wandered in the desert.

Sometimes it might seem that we each are wandering in our own personal desert. We're afraid to talk about our worries to others who might judge us harshly or condemn our beliefs. Is Grace a safe place to say what's on our minds and to share what's in our hearts? Let's hope so. Let's pray that it is.

A Prayer for the Country in a Time of Division

by Rabbi Ruth Adar

El Rachum v'Chanun, Merciful and Gracious God, Healer of the sick, Source of all Wisdom, we ask You for Your help in this time of trouble. Help us to see Your world as it truly is. Help us to tell the truth, and to recognize lies and half-truths. Give us discernment, and share some small measure of Your Wisdom, so that we may find our way through the present discord.

We ask that You, whom we call *Erech apayim v'rov chesed*, "slow to anger and abundant in kindness," grant us the ability to look upon one another with eyes of compassion. Help us look past our anger, past our fears, past our grudges and recrimination to truly see one another in all our humanity.

Give us a thirst for true justice, instead of the poisonous drink of revenge. Open our eyes to genuine need, and open our ears to the cries of the hungry and the sick.

Make us bridge builders, instead of grave diggers. Inspire us to bind up each other's wounds. Open our ears to each other's stories, and soothe the defensiveness that rises like bile in our mouths. Help us listen, and truly hear.

O God, who has commanded us, "Be holy, as I your God am holy," help us find our way to goodness.

Help us, O God, and we will try harder. Amen.

Rabbi Ruth Adar is a teaching rabbi based in San Leandro, CA.

She blogs at <https://coffeeshoprabbi.com/> as the Coffee Shop Rabbi.



(left) June 7: Mary Merriweather, Tom and Becky Coulter, Jean Heimos, and Scott Sisul hosted a birthday party for youth in detention.



(right) July 13: Grace teamed up with the Kirkwood Public Library for a "Feed the Reader" lunch and story time.

Dismantling Racism

Two opportunities to engage in social justice this fall

Anti-Racism Training at Grace Church

Friday, Oct. 11 - Saturday, Oct. 12

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (both days)

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Our baptismal covenant calls us to carry out God's mission of justice in the world. The Diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission brings their two-day workshop to Grace Church to help us move toward that goal.

Shug Goodlow and **Chester Hines** will be among the presenters at this workshop. We'll explore historic and current material, multimedia, small groups, role plays, and facilitated dialogue to give us a better understanding of institutional and internalized racism in our church and our society.

These trainings are required for clergy, wardens, and other church leaders. But everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take time out of your busy schedule to be a part of this experience!

There is no cost for the workshop. Lunch and snacks are included. Registration is required.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

<https://www.gracekirkwood.org/blog/anti-racism-training-at-grace-church/>

Sacred Ground: A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Race and Faith

Begins Sunday, Sept. 22 / 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice in our personal lives, our ministries and our society.

This 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

The program is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. Members of the Diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission will facilitate the gatherings, which will meet twice each month through February. Three extended sessions will meet on Sundays; the remainder will meet on Tuesday evenings.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

[https://www.diocesemo.org/news/2019/08/01/](https://www.diocesemo.org/news/2019/08/01/sacred-ground-dialogue-series-race-grounded-faith)

[sacred-ground-dialogue-series-race-grounded-faith](https://www.diocesemo.org/news/2019/08/01/sacred-ground-dialogue-series-race-grounded-faith)

or contact Janis Greenbaum at jgreenbaum@diocesemo.org / 314-651-1843

The Shepherd's Center: Dedicated to serving older adults

by Dick Entenmann

As Board Chair of the Shepherd's Center located in Glendale, I have written some articles and represented the organization at each of our Ministry Fairs, but I have found that a lot of folks just don't know what the Shepherd's Center is about.

The Shepherd's Center is a nonprofit located in the Community Space of the Webster Hills Methodist Church at Berry and Lockwood. It is one of 55 Shepherd's Centers located throughout the country and it is the only one in the St. Louis area. We celebrated our 20th anniversary last year here at Grace as part of our Fall Fundraiser. Our mission is to inspire older adults through programs, services and volunteer opportunities.

Grace has been a sponsoring congregation of the Shepherd's Center almost since its beginning and has supported its mission with volunteers and financial resources. Current Grace volunteers include Mike Heyer, Alice Pierce, Chrissie Rush and Becky Entenmann. Julie Grossman is always someone we can count on as well. We thank you for that past support and trust that it will continue.

For the year 2018, the Shepherd's Center had the following impact of folks in our area:

- 570 participants in our programs
- 1240 rides provided to medical appointments (13,576 miles driven)
- 31 home repairs completed
- 25 yards serviced
- 311 volunteers to make this happen

We are a small organization, but dedicated and passionate about our mission.

As you make decisions concerning your time, talent and treasure stewardship, please remember that volunteering is an excellent way to give back. Folks are passionate about many and varied causes and will migrate to activities which either have affected them personally or have knowledge about the organization's mission. Driving for the Shepherd's Center is painless yet impacts folks in such a positive way. The folks we serve are so appreciative of what we do. If you are able to volunteer for 2-3 hours per month, please contact me or the Shepherd's Center directly at 314-395-0988. We need additional drivers to meet the increasing call for rides. Transportation services is one of the biggest barriers as we age. You can help meet that need.

Thanks for your support.

The Fisher House

A new recipient of Grace's Outreach Ministry

Grace member John Dotson says he feels called by God to serve veterans. "I feel drawn to serve veterans because I am a Vietnam War veteran," Dotson explained. "I still carry mental and emotional scars from that unpopular war and the effects of the scorn I received when I came home. I know other vets carry similar scars from their wars."

That's one of the reasons why John serves as a hospice volunteer with veterans at Bethesda and is training to be a volunteer patient visitor at Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center. His work with veterans is now leading Grace's Outreach Committee to connect with The St. Louis Fisher House, a ministry serving vets and their families.

The Fisher House offers 20 guest suites, free of charge, for families while their loved ones are receiving treatment at local medical centers.

Guests are referred by social workers and must be traveling a distance greater than 50 miles from their homes to the St. Louis area.

You will have an opportunity to help support the Fisher House through Grace Church this Christmas. Our Outreach Committee has decided to add this "home away from home" to our Giving Tree project. Be sure to keep this ministry in your prayers and help us support their good work this coming holiday season.



United Thank Offering

A million and a half reasons to be thankful

Do you think you could change the world by dropping a coin into a box every time you noticed a blessing in your life? People around the world are giving daily thanks to God through United Thank Offering. Those everyday blessings added up to more than \$1.5 million over the past year!



The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church to promote thankfulness and mission in the whole Church. Known worldwide as UTO, the United Thank Offering grants are awarded on an annual basis for projects that address human needs and help alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally in the Episcopal Church.

UTO thanks everyone who, through their personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the Ingathering. Because of your gratitude, the Episcopal Church awarded **33 grants** for a total of **\$1,507,640.55** this summer.

The focus of the 2019 granting process was *Go: crossing boundaries created by race, culture, and economics to create communities that listen deeply and learn to live like Jesus*. The UTO Board received more than 75 grant applications.

Since 1889, UTO has collected and granted more than **\$138 million** in thank offerings to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion through **5,257 grants**.

Grace Church is proud to be a part of this life-changing mission. Pick up a UTO Blue Box at Grace and begin (or continue) counting your blessings every day. **Our next UTO Ingathering will be November 24** -- the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We encourage everyone to begin this practice of daily gratitude. Our offering last year totaled just under \$700 -- let's see if we can reach \$1,000 this year!

*UTO boxes are available at Grace Church.
Contact Grace member Shirley Browne
for more information: ssbrowne@earthlink.net.*

United Thank Offering Prayer

*Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy:
accept we pray these outward signs of our profound
and continuing thankfulness for all of life.
Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings
and joy and challenge that come our way.
Bless those who will benefit from these gifts
through the outreach of the United Thank Offering.
This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift
and blessing of all, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Here are a few of the ministries receiving UTO grants in 2019:

- **\$14,450** to the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama: Start-up funds for Latino Ministry
- **\$49,722.30** to Episcopal Migration Ministries: Refugees as Advocates
- **\$28,520** to the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa with the Diocese of Nzara, South Sudan: Nzara Pre-Natal and Birth Clinic
- **\$58,418** to the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota: Star Lodge Interpretive Center
- **\$142,335** to the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia with Jerusalem: Developing the Mother's Empowerment Program at the Princess Basma Centre
- **\$38,000** to the Episcopal Diocese of Rio Grande: Bilingual Borderlands Youth Ministry
- **\$39,500** to the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts: St. Mark's Afterschool Program
- **\$89,145** to the Diocese of Mumias in Kenya: ACK Ebenezer Street Children's Rehabilitation Center

160 years of Grace

Reflections of faith, families and church history

The Saints of Grace

Reflection by Dick Corbet

“Why have you stayed at Grace for 77 years?”

This is a question I often get asked. In those 77 years, I have watched leaders in the Episcopal Church take on many controversial issues for their times, including the adoption of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the ordination of women, the ordination of a gay bishop, the election of a woman Presiding Bishop, the election of a black Presiding Bishop, and the acceptance of the LGBTQ community.

Even through those tumultuous times, my answer is always the same: I come from a very strong Episcopal background full of saints who have left a lasting impression on me.

I was baptized at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis in October, 1936 as a fourth-generation Episcopalian. My dad had always been an Episcopalian and my mother was a Roman Catholic drop-out. My parents moved to Kirkwood and joined Grace Church in 1941. Mother was confirmed by the Rev. Charles Kean in March, 1946, after WWII was over. Fortunately they moved in next door to one of the many saints of Grace who helped mold my spiritual direction: **Sam Murphy, Sr.** Mr. Murphy was a Missouri State Representative, a former member of the FBI and a pillar of Grace Church. He was more than an idol, he was a compassionate guide in my early years. When I was a student legislator in high school, we would have mock legislations at the state capitol for several days. Mr. Murphy made sure I would be assigned to his desk on the floor of the legislature.

I was involved in any number of activities at Grace, from the Acolyte Guild to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts - all anchored and sponsored at Grace. I attended Sunday School from first grade and part of second grade, but then lived with my grandmother in south St. Louis during the war and in Cape Girardeau for third grade. We rented our home on North Geyer, and eventually returned for the rest of my high school career. Another saint of Grace was **Julia D’Arcy**, who was our Sunday School teacher for the boys’ fourth and fifth grades. It was Mrs. D’Arcy who insisted that when we were in the “big people’s church” from our release from Church School that you kneel with your back straight and do not lean back on the pews. I remember strongly even today her preaching: *“If you think you can not stand a little pain during the service, just look up at the Cross and remember how much and how long Jesus was in pain for you!”* Yes ma’am! It was also Mrs. D’Arcy who on May 25, 1950 signed my 1928 Book of Common Prayer, along with our Rector and Confirmation Instructor **the Rev. Charles Kean**, another saint of Grace. ...

Read more of this reflection at:
www.gracekirkwood.org/blog/the-saints-of-grace/



Above: Political flyer for Grace member and candidate Sam Murphy, one of Dick's early mentors.

Below: Julia D’Arcy was one of Dick’s Sunday school teachers at Grace.





Far left:
Wedding day for
Ron and Alice
Jones.

Left:
Celebrating the
baptism of Paul
Lee Allmon, the
next generation
of Episcopalians
in the Jones,
Isaacs and
Henderson
families.

Generations of Episcopalians

Reflection by Ron Jones

Six generations back in the Isaacs family, “Granny Grace,” a household slave of the Alexander Hamilton family in Antigua, BWI, born after 1750, bore two daughters sired, more than likely, by a member of the family. Normally, children of slaves were sold, but because Granny Grace was a favored slave, she was allowed to keep her daughters. On Jubilee Day, 1 July 1834, when all slaves in the British Colonies were emancipated, Rebecca and Mary Elizabeth were free to marry. Charles P. Hosier, Esq., a merchant in Antigua born in 1777, and his wife, Mary Ann, had a son, Thomas, who married Mary Elizabeth. Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Hosier had a daughter Mary Ann Elizabeth born 8 Nov 1842, who married John Isaacs of Antigua in 1860.

That marriage produced Robert Hodge Isaacs and Walter Clement Isaacs, Ron’s maternal grandfather, born in 1881 in Antigua, emigrated with his brother in 1901 to the United States, and was married at age 23 to Caroline Augusta Gomes, daughter of a Portuguese sea captain who had been born in Cape Verdes Islands, Portugal, raised by her aunt in Antigua, and emigrated to the United States in 1903.

Walter and Caroline Isaacs moved from New York to Cambridge MA in 1907, bringing with them the love of athletics (Walter was an accomplished “bowler” (pitcher) and President of New York’s West India Cricket Club) and a strong Anglican tradition. They became members of St Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church (historically known as a strong black parish) in Cambridge and raised a family of six sons and three daughters. The middle daughter, Wilma Alythia, born 3 April 1913, was Ron’s mother. When she married and moved to Boston, she joined St. John’s Episcopal Church, Roxbury Crossing, the “Home of the Sarum Rite,” blessed with Rev. Dr. Massey Shepherd as an Associate Rector, and Ron’s home parish.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, Abram Henderson, Alice’s paternal grandfather, born a slave in 1847 in Fayetteville, was emancipated at 19 and almost immediately became an entrepreneur. His business enterprises prospered, so much so that when his former master fell on hard times, Abram intervened and helped him survive. He married Evalina McKenzie, born in 1849: their legacy was a family of five sons and three daughters (one of whom died at nine years of age). Abram appreciated the value of knowledge and saw to it that all his children received an adequate post-secondary education. The oldest son, Benjamin, became the first college educated doctor, black or white, in Cumberland County; and many apprentice-trained doctors allowed that they owed their careers and success to Ben Henderson. His youngest son, Abram James, Jr., born in 1886, and father of Alice, was in medical school at the time of his father’s death, and, unwilling to burden his older brother with the financial issues associated with the pursuit of a doctorate in medicine, changed his career path and was graduated from Shaw University in 1908 with a doctorate in Pharmacy. As would be expected in a family of overachievers, he received the highest score among his peers in his state licensing examination, and went on to great success, owning and operating drug stores in Winston-Salem (where he supplied the sacramental wine for his local parish) and Fayetteville, his home town. ...

Read more of this reflection at:

www.gracekirkwood.org/blog/generations-of-episcopalians/

Grace Episcopal Church

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Back-2-School at Grace Church

Christian faith formation in the Episcopal Church is the lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by scripture, tradition and reason.

We invite all ages to pursue that lifelong process by engaging in our Sunday morning programs at Grace this fall.

Back-2-School Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Aug. 25 / 9 - 10 a.m.

Albright Parish Hall

EVERYONE is invited to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast, served by Grace's Church School Committee. Be sure to fill out and return your Sunday school registration cards when you come. It's a sweet way to start the new school year!

Classes Begin

Sunday, Sept. 8

Sunday Adult Forum / 9 a.m.

We are pleased to welcome **The Rev. Carola von Wrangel** with Food for the Poor as our guest speaker. Mother Carola will share information from one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the world. She will also preach at both worship services.

Sunday School / 9:30 a.m.

Students in pre-K through high school learn about God's love in our weekly faith formation program. Classes overlap with our 10 a.m. worship service, with students returning to church in time to share communion with their families.