

# The Carillon

of Grace Episcopal Church, Plainfield, New Jersey

Fall 2008

## **Grace Episcopal Church**

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### *Our Mission....*

Grace Church of Plainfield is a welcoming and affirming Christian community characterized by diversity, worshiping and praising God in the Anglican tradition and proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed in active discipleship.

*The Carillon* is a quarterly publication. Please submit articles to the editor or the parish office. Editorial staff: Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector, Morgann Cotten, Administrative Secretary.

CAROLYN'S COLUMN

Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector

## CHANGE IS IN THE AIR AT GRACE

The good people of Grace Church have been supporting boldly two risky objectives for the future health of our parish in 2008. One of these objectives is to begin to reduce deficit spending and eliminate it by 2011. There are only two ways to do this: increase income and decrease spending.

You have faithfully contributed to achieving this goal by stepping up your pledge giving. And the Finance Commission and Vestry have found ways to reduce spending. If you check the Finance report that our treasurer, **John Taitt**, prepares for the Vestry each month, you can see that we are tracking well, even though the economy has affected some families negatively. Some people have even contributed to projects on our "Wish List" and I thank you all for your generosity.

Perhaps the riskiest objective, though, has to do with changes we are making in Sunday worship and Christian Education. Many of you are aware that formation in the Christian faith not only strengthens our own faith, but it prepares our children for the many challenges and temptations of the world. Having a grasp of what it means to follow Jesus can be a comfort and a strength in our lives.

So, the Vestry, Worship Commission, Grace Church parents and teachers have designated this fall as the time to try a new worship service designed for families and a Christian Education program that is more relevant and reachable to young people and families. There will even be a component of musical education for our children.

**We are initiating this new program on Holy Cross Sunday, September 14.** Already the planning committee, the Vestry and I are feeling energized by the changes. We hope you will be too. Yes, we are taking a risk, but our Body of Christ at Grace Church is ready to make a trial commitment. We will be asking for your feedback along the way as we adjust to the changes.

**Please pray to Christ for guidance and please join us on September 7 at the 10:30 a.m. service when the choir will be back in the chancel singing and we will be informing everyone about the**

changes. Parents, bring your children and register for Sunday school at Coffee Hour after the service. You will receive a copy of a wonderful parental handbook, "Raising Your Child in Faith from Preschoolers to Teens" and we will all talk about how to best support each other and our children in our faith.

Please post this new schedule in a prominent place in your household along with this prayer: "Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, guide us as we renew our faith in you."

Here is the schedule from September 14 through December 21:

- 7:45 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist (Rite II) - All Saints' Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. "Family Friendly Communion" service - Church
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education Hour for ALL AGES (includes 15 minutes of music for children) - Parish Hall and Grace Lounge
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Choir - Church
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist with music and choir - Church

**Every Fourth Sunday of the month** - Families, children and all people will worship **together at 10:30 a.m. at our Youth and Family service** where there will be our usual Children's Homily, the Grace Choristers (children's choir), free-standing altar and homemade bread ("the Bread of Heaven").

**Change is in the air at Grace Church. We are stepping forward in faith to create new things that are more relevant to the changing needs of our parish. At the same time we are also nurturing what is best from our Anglican traditions. We mustn't lose our anchors!**

So, please pray for our new direction and let me know how it's going. I hope you'll be energized with us as we begin this new adventure together.

## GRACE NOTES\*

Robert H. Gangewere, Jr., *Organist and Choirmaster*



## GRACE CHURCH CHOIR

The Grace Church Choir always welcomes new voices into its fold, no matter the level of experience. Whether you are soprano or alto, tenor or bass, or unknown and yet to be determined, whether your music reading skills are good, minimal or nonexistent, we welcome you to join us. Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the choir room. We sing for Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, September through June. Joining us now is the ideal time as we begin a new season of enhancing our Worship with fine choral music and musical leadership in our liturgy. St. Augustine writes that those who sing pray twice. Sing with us! Join us in fellowship and song!

## GRACE CHORISTERS

The exciting changes in our Sunday Worship schedule and the addition of Family Friendly Communion at 9 a.m. mean exciting changes in the Grace Choristers program after completing a successful first season last year. Because music is an integral part of our Worship, music will also be an integral part of Sunday School. We will learn a variety of hymns, anthems, service music and inspired songs. Grace Choristers will be part of that musical experience. We will meet on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in Knickle Hall. Whether your children attend Family Friendly Communion at 9 a.m. and Sunday School, or Sunday School and traditional Eucharist at 10:30 a.m., they will be able to be part of Grace Choristers and the Sunday School music program. The Choristers will continue to sing on, the fourth Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m., Youth Sunday, from September through June, as well as the Christmas Eve Family Service and Easter. We will enhance those Services of Worship with music we learn in the Grace Choristers/Sunday School music program. Children who enroll in Grace Choristers will be making a commitment to Youth Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. each month, as well as Christmas Eve and Easter. Not

all children enrolled in Sunday School are required to be part of Grace Choristers, but this program will provide a wonderful opportunity for your children to have an active leadership role in our traditional Eucharist. Our children are the future church. Please enroll your children in Grace Choristers on Sunday, September 7, 2008!

\*Grace: In 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century England, any musical ornament, whether written out in notes, indicated by sign, or improvised by the performer. *Harvard Dictionary of Music*

### SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORUM - TIME CHANGE: 9:30 A.M.

By Kristen Foley

Accounts of struggle fill the newspaper and stream on the internet every day. It is easy to drown under the waves of bad news. The biblical story of Job shows modern readers that we are not alone in our struggles. Beginning September 7, the Sunday morning adult forum will discuss "Stories of Love and Loss." How can Job's journey through pain into peace inform our spiritual journeys today? Come and join the discussion! This friendly and open-minded group meets between services every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in Grace Lounge. Come one, come all, come once, come all the time - all are welcome! For more information, please see **Mary Testori** or e-mail **Kristen Foley** at [revkfoley@aol.com](mailto:revkfoley@aol.com).

### TUESDAY EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: 7:30 P.M.

By Kristen Foley

Grace Church continues its commitment to Christian education when the adult Bible study resumes on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. Come and join this faithful and inquisitive group as we explore the different ways Jesus is presented in the four Gospels. This special study will include opportunities to examine the mysterious Gospel of Thomas. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Thomas each proclaim the great good news of Jesus. How do the stories differ and what do those differences tell people of faith today? Come to the Grace lounge on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. to join this journey. For more information, please see **Mary Testori** or e-mail **Kristen Foley** at [revkfoley@aol.com](mailto:revkfoley@aol.com).

CHANGING TO THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY IN  
SEPTEMBER - WHAT IS THE RCL?

By Carolyn Eklund

In September, we will be initiating some changes to make our worship more relevant to our changing times and to increase and support the faith of our children and families. And we also are planning for a subtle, less noticeable change starting on Sunday, September 7. That's the day we will switch from the texts listed for Year A, Year B, and Year C for Sunday worship located in the back of the *Book of Common Prayer* to a list of texts from "The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) ."

The Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music has facilitated trial use of the RCL since 1983 and the General Convention approved it for use starting in Advent of 2007.

In adopting its use at Grace Church, we are joining a worldwide communion of Christians in this ecumenical symbol of unity - Anglican Churches, The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Presbyterians, Methodists and the United Church of Christ.

I am most excited about what the RCL accomplishes throughout the Christian year on Sundays that our current list of readings does not:

1. It provides a close to continuous reading of important Old Testament stories.
2. It includes previously omitted scripture of women and their role in salvation history.

When you come to worship with us this fall at the 7:45 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. traditional service with music, you could very well hear a text you've never heard in public worship before. Our Christian Education curriculum will now follow the RCL texts. And we just purchased the new RCL Gospel readings book and the Lectionary Book.

Look for the brochure in our Announcement bulletin in the next few Sundays for more information.

## FUTURE LEADERS OF GRACE

### A SUMMER MEMORY OF ONE OF ITS MEMBERS

WHAT A TRIP! By Nii Mills, Youth Group Member

What do 14-year-old kids want after they have just graduated middle school? Most would say money; others might say whatever their parents give them. Some would not even care if they were to receive nothing at all. I, being a 14-year-old myself, would have gone with money, but like most things in life, you get what you don't ask for. In my case it was a trip from my parents to England for a job well done for graduating middle school. Well you must be asking yourself now, "Why would a 14-year-old receive a gift like that at such a young age?" In all honesty I wouldn't be able to answer that question seeing as this fourteen year old definitely thought this was the perfect gift. To top it all off, this 14-year-old was going on a vacation in Europe by himself to stay at his relative's house for almost two months. This was the best gift anyone at my age could get.

Of course, all of my friends were envious and seething mad when I told them my joyous news. After my parents told me of their surprise gift for me, the next few weeks rolled by and before we knew it, the day of graduation had arrived. And very soon after it was over - 5 a.m. the next morning to be exact - I was loading up the car with luggage for my onward journey to a new and different land.

It sure was an experience to be remembered! The two months spent in England brought about new memories and new bonds that were established during my stay. I made many new friends who were introduced to me through my cousins and some I met on my own. As well as having fun being a tourist in an alien land much different from my own. The sights to see, the things to do, and the new people to meet were a constant every day I spent in England. I especially experienced new ideal moments while taking part in a youth development program that was a four-week class. This was a new, interesting way to have fun while learning.

In this group we were taught how to take care of our bodies by a nutritionist and physical educators. We were also taken on many different trips around London and other parts of England that included going to the theater, which gave us a new insight into the performing arts. Other trips included seeing a movie and even going water skiing. It was time spent with new friends and grown adults just behaving like one of the kids. With trips like these we would also go to regular tourist attractions such as Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and Parliament, Westminster Abbey, and so on.

The time I spent in England gave me a chance to spend more time with family I usually do not have the opportunity to see on a regular basis. It was a great trip to have gone on even with the pangs of homesickness that, once in a while, we all feel while away from home. Though I may have felt these pains for home every so often it was good to know that I would eventually return home. My trip to England was a trip I had made before with my mother three years earlier, but with this trip in which I traveled alone I was able to experience so many things that can only be dealt and learned by oneself. It brought a new awakening to the world around me, broadening my horizon of that world in which I live.

### GOVERNORS' RALLY 2008

By Trevor King

Grace Church's 2008 Governor's Rally will be celebrated on Sunday October 19 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. This year's theme is "Your State's Famous Product." The proceedings will follow previous years' format exactly where the Heads of State will parade through the Nave of the Church wearing their respective State colors and displaying their banners.

All Governors are kindly asked to make a concerted effort to be present so that the parade, the prize presentation, and the feasting that follows in Knickle hall can be total success.

The committee members, who are **Frank Walcott, Holly Algeo, Jane Wilson, Mary Testori** and **Trevor King**, are currently meeting

to decide this year's methods of recognition and prizes to be presented to the most successful Governors.

As most of you already know, the first phase of our restoration project was completed in 2002 and the congregation raised about \$350,000 which the State of New Jersey matched. But at the time, the carillon tower was in worse repair than was anticipated and required another avenue of funding. That's when we were able to secure a loan from the Diocese of New Jersey. Over six years, the "Governors' Rally" has been our fund-raising vehicle to repay the loan from the Diocese. We've raised an average of \$19,000 per year.

A restored carillon is now serving Grace Church and Plainfield every Sunday when **Jeff Spelman** plays before and after worship, and every year when guest artists play a concert for our annual Peach Festival.

Please bring your friends and family to enjoy the fun. We hope to have a full house great music, very tasty treats and fabulous prizes.

### THE WISH LIST OF GRACE

By Jason Algeo

The Vestry has discussed the fact that there are multiple projects we would like to undertake to maintain, improve and grow Grace Church. Unfortunately, the available funds we currently have are not nearly enough to cover the costs of working these projects. Since we do not generate stock or print currency in the basement, we need to raise money to pay for these projects. So we have devised a 'Wish List' of projects we feel are of the highest priority and need our attention first.

The Wish List's purpose is to give you an opportunity to make a donation to a specific project. Or, if you make a general donation, the Vestry will decide which project to put it towards. If you are moved to contribute to one of our projects to improve our beloved Grace, please use the Wish List form found every Sunday in the Service Booklet and indicate how you would like your contribution to

be handled. Contributions can be put in the alms basin on Sunday or mailed directly to Grace Church.

Projects that are currently on the Wish List are: upgrading the church's sound system; an accessibility washroom and ramp; organ repair and up-keep; roof and soffitt repairs.

### ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

By Barbara Nichols

We're getting there! With the heat of the summer and vacations over, the ramp is now going up. For many weeks, weather permitting, the members of the Men's Guild measured and cut lumber for the platform at the door. By making a "kit," the platform went up quickly and the Cleveland Ave. entrance will soon be available again. If anyone would like to help, speak with **Robert Wilson** or **John Eklund** about the work schedule for the ramp.

We now have three bids for the restroom. Unfortunately they are two to three times what we had expected. The Accessibility Committee will meet in September to select a contractor and discuss how we can raise the rest of the money to complete the project.

Would you like to make a donation towards the cost of a particular part of the project such as: toilet, sink, changing table, tile, lighting fixture, paper towel holder, toilet paper holder, flooring, etc.? Please let me know.

### PCO UPDATE

By Jane Wilson, President of the Board

Plans continue for the expansion and improvement of Grace's Kitchen. The program recently acquired a commercial dishwasher from the Community Food Bank equipment grant, and the board will be writing grants for funding improvements in access and storage space.

In the education division, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant is beginning its second year, serving students in Clinton, Evergreen and New Covenant Christian Academy. New tutoring services will be offered through Title I Supplemental Education Services. The board is planning a retreat for strategic planning for this division in the early fall.

**Robert Gangewere** is hard at work reviving the Plainfield Girl Choir. Please call (908) 756-7897 for an audition appointment.

### FUTURE EVENTS AT GRACE

(CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES! [WWW.GRACEPLAINFIELD.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEPLAINFIELD.ORG))

#### SIGHT-SOUND EXCURSION IN DECEMBER

See **Mary Testori** or **Karen Moore** for information about the upcoming trip to Strasburg, Pennsylvania on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Plans are to leave Plainfield at 11 a.m., shop in the outlets for two hours, have dinner at "Good and Plenty," a traditional Amish-style restaurant, and be seated for the 7:30 p.m. show of the Nativity.

Costs at the moment don't include transportation. A payment plan has been setup with the first payment of \$40 due the end of August. Checks can be made to Grace Church (these are not tax-deductible). Scholarships will be available for children. Please see **Mother Carolyn** for qualifications. Check out the website for more details: [www.sight-sound.com](http://www.sight-sound.com). Call **Mary Testori** if you have questions, 72-752-1945.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH GEARS UP FOR FEBRUARY 2009

We are in the active recruitment phase of developing our Black History Month Planning Committee. Please join us as we begin to develop the program for 2009.

You may recall that we kick off the month in January with our Martin Luther King Day Program. That date is set for January 19, 2009. From last year's proceeds, we were able to send a \$500 donation to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial being built in Washington, D. C. We're very proud to have made that contribution on behalf of Grace Church.

We will celebrate with a festive Holy Eucharist on February 13, 2009, as we remember Absalom Jones and his struggle from slavery to freedom as well as his struggle to become the first African-American priest in the Episcopal Church in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

We are eager for others to help us plan other events that include African American women's contributions to our society, race and reconciliation and a celebration of God's gift of our diversity around a sumptuous spread to cap off the month. Have we boosted your curiosity? If so, call **Carrie Hayes (908-755-8842)** or **Mary Testori (732-752-1945)**.

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS TRANSFERRED TO SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 5

Bring your animals for the 9 a.m. service outside or the 10:30 a.m. service inside for this special celebration of God's bountiful creation and prayers to remind us of our duty for its proper care.

Our children look forward to this celebration. We have planned the "Family Friendly" service outside so more children will be able to bring their pets. **Ian Simmons** agrees, "I think it's important that the pets are blessed. It helps them to not get sick and feel better. That way they live longer. I like it better when the pet blessing is outside. That way I can bring my cats instead of just their picture."

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 (*Baptism anyone?*)

*Participate in this once in a lifetime sacrament and become a member of Christ's Body, the Church. See the Rector for more information.)*

On All Saints' Sunday, children are encouraged to dress as their favorite Saint for the 9 a.m. service. We'll sing our favorite saints' songs and have activities to learn more about the saints in Sunday school that day.

## DISCIPLESHIP

(REPRINTED FROM A/P NEWS SERVICE) BY John Miller

How does a congregation of 30 people show it has a heart the size of Texas? By donating 18,000 pounds of freshly grown produce to area food pantries. Through a program originally aimed at ensuring its survival, tiny Episcopal Church of Our Saviour in Pleasant Grove, Texas, has given the equivalent of 72,000 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables to the needy since 2003. Under the program, area residents rent and work garden plots on the church's four-

acre property for \$30 a month. In return, they agree to donate 10 percent of their harvest to charity, and to help tend six plots whose yield goes entirely to charity. Vestry member and garden coordinator Becky Smith told the *Dallas Morning News*, "We're a little-bitty church but doing a pretty good ministry."

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ON CLEVELAND AVENUE IN AUGUST

By Karen Oliver Moore

We raised more than \$900 at Grace Church's first-ever Yard Sale along Cleveland Avenue on August 9. Luckily, the weather was perfect that day and loads of our neighbors turned out to take advantage of the bargains available that day.

lots of our neighbors and church members turned out to

There were videotapes, books, stuffed animals, baskets, jewelry, small and large electronic appliances and many, many more items. The day was a good deal of fun for the parishioners who volunteered to staff the tables. Thanks go out to all of our volunteers and to all of the people who so generously donated saleable items. The day was so successful that we already are beginning to plan an expanded yard sale next summer in the garden that will feature a health fair and other attractions of interest to our Plainfield neighborhood.

And on August 24, another perfect weather day, many of our neighbors showed up again on Cleveland Avenue to enjoy the annual peach festival and carillon concert. It was fun meeting neighbors and sharing the evening with friends old and new.

## Grace Episcopal Church Fall Calendar 2008

| DATE  | EVENT  |
|---|--|
| August 26-August 31, 11:30 a.m.                                 | Grace's Kitchen  |
| Monday, September 1   | Parish Office Closed   |
| Wednesday, September 3, 7:30 p.m.                               | Choir practice begins  |
| Sunday, September 7, 10:30 a.m.                                 | Choir begins and we Kick-off Christian Education, Register your children for Sunday school. Parent gathering at Coffee Hour.   |
| Saturday, September 13  | Hispanic Festival, Christ Church-Cristo Rey, Trenton   |
| Sunday, September 14, Begin NEW WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Chapel<br>9:00 a.m. Family Friendly Worship<br>9:30 a.m. Christian Education for all ages with music and crafts for children; Adult Forum in Grace Lounge<br>9:45 a.m. Adult Choir rehearsal<br>10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist with choir in Church |
| Monday, September 15, 7:00 p.m.                                 | Investment Advisory Committee  |
| Tuesday, September 16, 2:15 p.m.                                | Trip to Museum of Biblical Art and Fordham Conference, "Sinners and Winners"   |
| Sunday, September 28, 10:30 a.m.                                | Youth and Family Service – worship together  |
| Sunday, October 5, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.                     | Blessing of the Animals; 9:00 outside and 10:30 traditional worship  |
| Sunday, October 5, 2:00 p.m.                                    | Friends of Sleepy Hollow, Celebration of Animals, Cook School Park   |
| October 5-7   | Clergy Conference  |
| Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.                                 | Watchung Convocation Meeting, St. John's, Somerville   |
| Sunday, October 12  | Rev. John F. Hartman, Seaman's Institute, preaches   |
| Thursday, October 16, 6:00 p.m.                                 | Moore/Caldwell wedding rehearsal   |
| Friday, October 17, 4:00 p.m.                                   | Moore/Caldwell wedding   |
| Sunday, October 19 after 10:30 a.m. service                     | Governors' Rally and After-celebration   |
| Thursday, October 23- Saturday, Oct. 25                         | Anti-racism training, Ocean Grove  |
| Sunday, October 26, 10:30 a.m.                                  | Youth and Family Service – worship together  |
| Sunday, November 2  | All Saints' Sunday, Baptisms to be scheduled   |
| Sunday, November 23, 10:30 a.m.                                 | Youth and Family Service – worship together  |
| Thursday, November 27, 10:00 a.m.                               | Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist – Christ the King Altar  |
| Sunday, November 30, 10:20 a.m.                                 | Fifth Sunday of the Month – Hymn-Sing!   |
| Sunday, November 30, 5:00 p.m.                                  | Advent Lessons and Carols  |
| Saturday, December 6  | Excursion to Pennsylvania, Sight and Sound, Nativity Play  |
| Monday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.                                   | Investment Advisory Committee  |
| Saturday, December 13 Evening                                   | Christmas Party fundraiser   |