

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PEMBERTON NJ

AMAZING GRACE

VOLUME III, NO. 5

DECEMBER 31, 2011



During the season of Epiphany (January 6-February 21), Grace Church's Green Team will return to an Episcopal tradition of offering house blessings in homes of parishioners.

We will begin with the Rectory on Sunday, January 15, from Noon—2 PM. Mother Jane and members of the Green Team welcomes all members of the parish to participate in the blessing. She will provide light refresh-

GREEN TEAM OFFERS HOUSE BLESSINGS (AN EPISCOPAL TRADITION) DURING SEASON OF EPIPHANY

ments.

During her years at Grace, Jane has offered blessings in two homes and one place of business in response to specific requests. "Many Episcopalians are unfamiliar with this wonderful tradition and its special link to Epiphany," she reports. "Both simple blessings and those in which participants travel from room to room will be available for individual homes. So don't feel you have to clean and straighten each room of your home in order to it to be

blessed."

In addition to the ceremony, members of the Green Team will bring tips on "greening" homes, i.e. offering helpful suggestions for making your home more environmentally healthy, focusing on such things as energy use, household products, composting, gardens, and prayer.

Please plan to attend the launching of this series on January 15 and also be sure to schedule a blessing of your home through the Parish Office.

EPIPHANY: SEASON OF LIGHT

"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning *manifestation* or *appearing*. When we say we've had "an epiphany," it means the light has dawned for us in a way that may change us forever. Some Anglican prayer books call this feast by the alternative title "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." This season of increasing light before the penitential season of Lent is multi-valent, combining the commemoration of the Magi, the wise men from the East led by the star of Bethlehem, the Baptism of Jesus by John

in the Jordan River, and the changing of water into wine at the wedding of Cana, the first recorded miracle of Jesus when he shows himself to those who may have thought he was simply an ordinary man from Galilee.

Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany

Tea, Conversation, and Holy Eucharist

Friday, 1/6, 4-6 PM

The Rectory

RSVP to Mother Jane

COMING UP

- 1/1: Holy Name of Jesus/New Year's Day: Holy Eucharist at 8 & 9:30 AM
- 1/6: Epiphany Holy Eucharist, conversation, refreshments, 4-6 PM; Pageant rehearsal, 6:30 PM.
- 1/8: Epiphany pageant & baptism (Olivia Rose Newman) at 9:30 AM service
- 1/15: Dedication of Pledges at both services; Ken Maskell preaching; GreenTeam Rectory Blessing, Noon-2 PM
- 1/20, 6:30 PM. Acolytes & youth gather for pizza & viewing of Seamen's Church Institute video
- 1/22: Parish Annual Meeting follows one service of Holy Eucharist at 9 AM
- 2/5: Hymn Sing & Supper, 4 PM

Changes in Weekday Services:

Please note that we will be experimenting with days and times, from our normal Wednesdays, 7 PM, to a variety of formats. Please check your announcements each week or call the parish office.

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 1/22

FOLLOWS ONE SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST AT 9 AM. JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST. VOTE. LEARN. PRAY. CELEBRATE. DELIBERATE. GIVE THANKS FOR OUR LEADERS WHO HAVE SERVED ALL OF US SO WELL.

FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to donate food staples for hungry people in our community: canned fish & meats, pasta/sauces, soups, coffee/tea, juices, vegetables & fruits, cereals, peanut butter, jelly, snacks.

On behalf of those who depend on our food pantry, Grace Church extends grateful thanks to our members and friends who are so faithful to this ministry and also to the students of **Northern Burlington County Regional High School** and the residents of **Hearthstone at Woodfield** for their special food drives that filled our pantry shelves to overflowing. Thanks to this generosity, Grace contributed four cartons of food to the Crisis Ministry of Trenton & Princeton which lost 30 tons of food in a fire.

TD BANK: HALF WAY THERE!

Grace Church is part of TD Bank's Affinity Membership Program. Once 50 households sign up, Grace Church will receive annual cash contributions from TD Bank based on the annual balance in every participating account. No cost to customer; no financial information is divulged. Open or link your account at any TD bank branch, and be sure to specify Grace Church (Pemberton) as recipient.

Special thanks to Colonial Village Catering (Pemberton) & USF Collections (NYC) for donations of services & goods.

GRACE CHURCH CELEBRATES ADVENT & CHRISTMAS!



Men's Service Group begin the annual ritual of the sticks and twigs using greens from local trees that will grace our sanctuary and reach to the ceiling.. (Special thanks to Priscilla Worthington.)



St. Nick, child & helper. Photos: Fred Gower & Jane T Brady

Praise Dancers from the Nesbit Center at the Grace Guild Dinner — a gift in recognition of relationship and consistent support to the Kid's Club Program (below). Thanks to the Guild Committee (Linda Duberson, Emily Hess, Sunday Pittman, Helen Whitby, Sadie Durham, Joann MacRae) for such a lovely evening.



Grace is grateful for all who made our sanctuary, Parish Hall, and property so beautiful during Advent and Christmas and for all who brought, prepared and served food for us and our neighbors. We give thanks for so many special contributions to underwrite our music and flowers (and for those who counted them), for Greg Smith, Jim Roman, the soloists & choirs of Grace Church and the singers who joined them (Hazel Eaton, Lee Millhous), instrumentalists Sonny Day, Mike Gephart, Marcella Johnson, Jason Mehler, Elizabeth Sabin, Scott Sabin, and music librarians Jean Cook and Kathy Waugh. We also thank the wardens and vestry, staff, and members and friends of Grace. May God bless you and our world in the New Year!—Jane +

JOIN US FOR A HYMN SING & SUPPER

TO BENEFIT GRACE CHURCH'S MUSIC FUND

SUNDAY, 2/5, 4 PM

CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITES!

BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS!

FUN & FELLOWSHIP IN FENWICK HALL!

(WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION)

KATHY MURRAY ON “PRAYER, FAITH & THE INTERNET”

Kathy Murray, a postulant for Holy Orders, 2nd year student in the Master of Divinity degree program at General Theological Seminary, and seminarian at St. John’s in the Village (NYC) took time from her intense schedule on 12/18 to share with us her thoughts and experiences in using the internet as a resource for prayer. Hers was an illuminating discussion on how the internet can supplement and enhance our usual tools of

Bible and Book of Common Prayer. She shared with us some of her favorite sites. Please be in touch with her by email if you would like a copy of her list: kmurray@gts.edu.

(Mother Jane is also happy to share some of her favorite resources and e-newsletters with the parish.)



GRACE LEARNS ABOUT PLANNED GIVING



On 11/16 members of the parish met with the co-chairs of the Planned Giving Committee (the Rev. Peggy Hodgkins & Chuck Watson) of the Diocese of New Jersey and Phyllis Jones, CFO, to learn about developing a planned giving program for the parish. Watch for information or speak with stewardship chair Ken Maskell.

Have you included Grace in your will?

We are stewards of God’s bounty. Caretakers. For a brief period we are given time, energy, resources. What we do with these gifts ultimately defines the character of our life and the depth of our spiritual understanding.

Episcopal Church Foundation

GRACE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SEAFARERS



Bill Hess (l) and The Rev. Canon James D. Von Dreele at Seamen’s Church Institute, flanking the original floating chapel’s bell.

On November 2, Director of Christian Formation Bill Hess and Mother Jane delivered 20 “ditty bags” for seafarers — holiday bags filled with necessities—at the Seamen’s Church Institute of Philadelphia & South Jersey. This was a project begun by Grace Church youth on Maundy Thursday with the help of the parish.

We learned that ship workers often come to the 125 miles of Delaware Riverway coastline without basic provisions and without the means to advocate for themselves. Many come from poorer,

developing countries throughout the world and take these jobs hoping to lift their families at home out of poverty. Like many migrant workers, they are vulnerable, often working in unregulated conditions, with little access to good medical care, with people they don’t know and who may not speak their language.

Seamen’s Church Institute is an ecumenical ministry which has been serving and befriending and advocating for mariners since 1843 in what is one of the largest, busiest ports in the United States, with \$17 billion in regional commerce.

Executive Director Fr. Jim presented us with a video on this dynamic ministry which we plan to show at our acolyte/youth pizza party and gathering on Friday, 1/20, 6:30 PM.

All are welcome to join us!

GRACE EPIPHANY PAGEANT

**1/8
9:30 AM**



We encourage all children and youth to participate. Speaking & non-speaking parts are available and will be assigned at the **mandatory** rehearsal on Friday, 1/6, 6:30 PM. We begin with pizza & dessert. Questions? Contact Director Kathy Gruver. Be in touch with parish office if you would like us to send invitations to your family & friends.



Grace Episcopal Church

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PARISH STAFF

William Hess, Director
of Christian Formation
James J. Roman, Organist
Gregory Deane Smith, Director of Music
Lucia Sharapoff, Secretary
Kathy Waugh, Sexton
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Wardens: Toby Green
Helen Whitby
Vestry: Lori Carrico
Mike Gephart
Sadie Hampton Durham
William Hess
Russell Hipplewitz
Rick Hunt
Elizabeth Sabin
Bill Shorman
Ingrid Welsh
Clerk: Elizabeth Sabin
Treasurer: Ingrid Welsh
Rector (& editor): The Rev. Jane T. Brady

RECURRING:

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 8 & 9:30 a.m.;
Weekday services as announced. Healing services follow on most 4th Sundays.

Church School: Sundays following 9:30 service.

Youth & Adult Discussion Groups: most 1st & 3rd Sundays following 9:30 service.

Food Pantry: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (*Please call ahead.*)

Rector's Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-Noon.

Adult Choir: sings at 9:30 a.m. service during program year; practice Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY & THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.newjersey.anglican.org (609) 394-5281

www.episcopalchurch.org (800)334-7626

Excerpts from Christmas message, 2011

*See, your salvation comes -
Isaiah 62:11*

The great prophets before Jesus proclaimed a vision of a nation and a people redeemed. We continue to share that yearning - as the Christmas hymn puts it, "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." We've seen abundant hopes spring up in the past year across the Arab world and Eastern Europe, and in the global Occupy movement. Those voices seek a world of greater justice, communities in which decisions and the gifts of creation are more available to all. Our understanding of salvation is most profoundly about justice in community, and

as Christians we believe that help and healing for all are grounded in the incarnate presence of God - among us and within us.

We look for salvation to the one who came among us in the most humble way, a helpless child born in a scandalous way to a poor peasant couple. The Incarnation, God with us, changed the world in ways that we insist are leading to the ultimate healing of all creation. "See, your salvation comes," says the prophet in every age, yet it is not yet fully come upon us. We live in hope for its fullness. May hope be nourished within us, in each and every human being and community, for the journey toward God's healed and holy future....

Jesus comes among us to remind us of a world living

together in peace, to reclaim and make real that vision of creation for all humanity and all God's creatures. That world is put right as relationships between God and humanity are set right. The relationship between God and human being cannot be set right without equal healing of relationships between us mortals. See, your salvation comes! Will we welcome that healing?

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori Presiding Bishop & Primate, The Episcopal Church

Christmas in Chelsea Square, the special produced by General Seminary that aired Christmas Eve on CBS, is now available to watch online. (You can see our seminarian Kathy Murray as a participant.) Go to link on www.gts.edu.

DIOCESE OF NJ: TOWARDS THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP IN 2013

In a special meeting, Grace Church elected Linda Duberson, Toby Green, Russell Hipplewitz, Janet Hunt, Kathy Waugh, and Helen Whitby as delegates to a special meeting of Burlington Convocation on 12/11 to elect delegates to the Diocesan Election Committee. Representing our Convocation are the Rev. Jayne Oasin and Mrs. Daryl Albury.

Christian Educator's Day with our Bishop: 1/21, 9-3 at Trinity Cathedral

Adults Empowering Children & Youth

Preregistration by 1/11