

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church

5407 North Charles Street., Baltimore, Maryland 21210 • 410-433-6650



• www.GraceUnitedMethodist.org

Volume 19, No. 5

May 2011



Let Us Celebrate the Risen Lord!

EVERY SUNDAY:

8:30 a.m. - Early Worship

10:00 a.m. - Principal Worship Celebration

SUNDAY, MAY 1 - Second Sunday of Easter
Closing Celebration for the Children's and Youth Choirs

I Kings 19:4-18 Psalm 16 John 20:19-31

"What You Don't Know Just Might Hurt You!" - Dr. Brannan

SUNDAY, MAY 8 - Third Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116 I Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

"In The Breaking of Bread" - Rev. Webb

SUNDAY, MAY 15 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jeremiah 14:11-18 Psalm 23 I Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

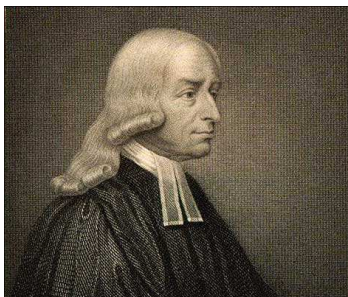
"Prophet, Priest, and Shepherd" - Dr. Brannan

SUNDAY, MAY 22 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Our Reconciling Covenant

II Kings 10:15-16 Psalm 133 II Corinthians 5:14-21 John 14:1-7

"The Way, The Truth, the Life – An Inclusive Chapter" - Dr. Brannan



SUNDAY, MAY 29 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Aldersgate Sunday

Jeremiah 33:31-34 Psalm 130 Romans 8:12-16 John 15:9-17

"A Visit with Mr. Wesley" - arranged by Dr. Brannan

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Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. – John Wesley



Hi Ho, Hi Ho --
off to the
Fair we go!

Saturday, May 7 from 10-2
Our annual Grace Church
COUNTRY FAIR

Plants - children's games - books -
baked goodies - craft vendors -
chicken salad luncheon - hot dogs -
Treasure Chest

and then . . .



on **Sunday, May 15**
4th ANNUAL GRACE CHURCH GALA

5:00 - Festivities begin in Fellowship Hall with music, mingling, and a **FESTIVE BUFFET** featuring nibbles, salmon, shrimp, ham, meatballs, fruit, veggies, and much much more

6:00 - **AUCTION** begins. Bid on wonderful items like specialty foods, dining certificates for fine restaurants, beachhouse weekends, and tickets to theaters and sporting events.

7:00 - **FABULOUS DESSERTS**

Tickets: \$10 per person - available May 1 and 8 after church. Table reservations accepted.
BABYSITTING available with one week's notice

Contact Maureen Danz, 410-825-6252 or Wilma Starkey, 410-377-2748

PROCEEDS FROM BOTH EVENTS BENEFIT MISSION OUTREACH PROJECTS

The Country Fair - right here in our own backyard!

Saturday, May 7 from 10 to 2

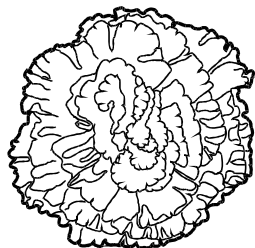
We are planning some new events along with your old favorites-
vendors - food - fun - games - shopping - fun for all!

KIDS KORRAL - Moon Bounce, games, prizes, kid-friendly food, and bike rally!

KIDS AGAIN - gently used clothes, games, and more.

Everyone loves to eat and enjoy good company. Hot dogs, pit beef sandwiches, cheese pizza, peanuts and popcorn, and all to be enjoyed in a picnic-type setting. Or savor "Wilma's famous Chicken Salad" platter - reservations required (\$8 per person - call the Church Office or Wilma Starkey, 410-377-2748)

Shopping at the Country Fair is always a pleasure. Stroll among the vendor booths, spend some time (and money!) at the Treasure Chest, mosey over to the Flower Cart, and by all means, don't forget the Grace Bake Table filled with delicacies made by our own Grace Bakers. Then get a head start on your summer reading by buying a bagful of good books.



Mother's Day Carnations

to support Youth activities

The Youth -- our future and the future of Grace Church
support their activities by placing carnations
in the Chancel on Mother's Day

Remember your Mother, Grandmother, Sisters, Aunts, and special friends

I/We wish to purchase _____ carnations (\$2.00 each) to be placed in the Chancel Mother's Day, May 8, 2011
in support of Grace Youth activities.

In Honor of

In Memory of

Purchased by

Total enclosed \$ _____

Envelope No. _____

All orders must be placed by Monday, May 2, 2011

Why Grace

by Dr. Doris Franklin

At this time of my life it would be hard to imagine what I would do without Grace Church and its members. Grace provides not only for my spiritual well-being but also for a major part of my social life. As an unmarried senior I look to Grace and its members to provide the much desired social interactions. It is difficult to imagine how I would fill the remainder of my time if Grace was not in it. Grace is the source of a large portion of my social life including such activities as the monthly book club, the weekly prayer group, Companions in Christ, and Sunday evening pot luck dinners. These frequently precede such adjuncts to formal spiritual offerings or less formal pastimes such as making quilts for the homeless. These Sunday evening gatherings also provide another opportunity to share ideas and sometimes just to share happenings in my everyday life.

I am often surprised at the depth of caring between members. People that I barely know approach me to ask how my family is doing having read in the bulletin that someone was ill or, on a happier note, to ask if my nephew who was then serving in Iran is safe, etc.

I would begin by saying that Dr. Brannan leaves nothing to be desired as my Pastor, spiritual adviser and friend. His sermons are thought provoking, sometimes exhilarating and sometimes humorous dependent on what message he is trying to deliver. Reverend Webb, as our Associate Pastor, provides a very different, but equally needed type of spiritual leadership. She provides a perfect foil for Dr. Brannan. The continuing education offerings she plans are stimulating and informative. I thoroughly enjoy the retreats she plans each fall. These give me the opportunity to socialize with family groups not available in other settings. I particularly enjoy the children

In my estimation the music provided under the leadership of Bruce Eicher is unmatched. The Choir with its soloists, the Bell Choir led by John Kessell, the three choirs organized into three age groups are wonderful. I particularly appreciate the Cherub choir. Those little voices so soft when in front of the congregation but so boisterous in the corridors are darling. The "special" music programs provided throughout the year are such a great addition to the worship service. I particularly enjoy the Catonsville Steel Drum Band which ushers in Lent which is so

Patti Fenske to retire in June

Rev. Patti Fenske will retire as Minister of Pastoral Care, effective June 30, 2011, as she confirmed by letter to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. She wrote, in part: "This decision has been made after much prayerful deliberation. It has been difficult to arrive at this point since, as I stated in my Report to the 2010 Charge Conference, my work at Grace continues to be the 'best job I have ever had.' However, for a variety of reasons, which includes the time of transition and re-thinking of ministry patterns occasioned by Dr. Brannan's retirement, I believe it is the appropriate time personally and for the congregation generally for such a transition.

"I know the Committee will make every effort to see that the needs of the home-bound portion of the congregation which has been a primary focus of my ministry are met and cared for in the future. Please be assured that – my position not being one of episcopal appointment – I will continue to hold Grace in my heart and to render such help as my continued presence in the congregation may provide.

"Thanking you and the Committee and Dr. Brannan for the opportunity to serve God and God's people over the years here at Grace, I am

Sincerely yours,
The Rev. Patti S. Fenske"



Retirement Celebration dates

Please save these two important dates

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Rev. Patti Fenske's Retirement Reception after the 10 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 26, 2011

Dr. Emora Brannan's Retirement Reception after the 10 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall

different from the St Patrick Mass but equally enjoyable. Where could I go in the city to hear such wonderfully diverse music (to say nothing of the price of a ticket)?

In conclusion, I love Grace Church!



Birthday Greetings

Heartiest congratulations to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in May.

- 1 Alexander Breard
- 2 Matthew Breard, Elizabeth D. White
- 3 Robert Graziosi, Alexandra Schmidt
- 5 Laura Bowers, Garrett McGuire, Shelley Wojciechowski
- 6 Olivia Inskeep, Tanya Spedalere
- 7 Jack Bayne, Jordan Clark, David Cornbrooks, Addie McGuire, Mason Paul, Molly Thorne
- 8 Catherine Gonzales, Avery Heath
- 9 David Doub
- 10 Chayla Rowley, Nancy Seitz, Dorothy Shindle, Zachary Wyatt
- 11 Chris Murray
- 12 Steve James
- 13 Trudy Byrd, Kevin Shaner
- 14 Betty Robinson
- 15 Charlotte Benfer, Christine Bowers, Lisa Greenhouse, Drew Warren
- 16 Katie Schumacher, Marguerite Stucki, Marge Vogelsang
- 17 Daniel Hanley, Michelle Howard, Virginia Jeffrey, Lauren Simmons
- 18 George A. Kahl
- 19 Clarke Bowers, Christopher James, Kristen McGuire, Sarah Weiskittel
- 20 Keith Benfer, Rev. William E. Polk, Jr., Delight Scouten
- 21 Megan Green, Patricia Kelley, Jean Page
- 22 George Getschel, Janice Leutzinger, Debra Salvage
- 23 Ethan Hayes, Kathryn Mullan
- 24 Lauren Hoehn, Kevin Ransom, Neva Roth
- 25 Susan Baukhages, Morgan Frazier, Alexander Gilmore
- 26 Stanley I. Feldman, Katarrinna Gause
- 27 Abe Davis, Michael Paul, Whitney Paul
- 28 Gwen Farrugia, C. Scott Frazier, III, Jeanne Gayler, Sandy Kick
- 29 Stephen Howe, Levi Plitt, Wilma Sutton
- 30 Stephen McIntire
- 31 Carole Redline, Sue Rinker, Jeaneen Wingate, Elizabeth Winship

Annual Conference

Representing Grace Church at the 2011 Annual Conference May 26-28 at the Marriott Inner Harbor will be Kitty Allen, Pam Cheek and Jean Smith, and our Clergy – Dr. Brannan, Rev. Webb, and Rev. Fenske. Please support them with your prayers.

**Who's
Graduating
From Our
Church?**



Please let us know the name of the graduate, the school, special honors, and future plans so that we may congratulate them and wish them well on the next leg of their life's journey. Call the church office or e-mail kitty.allen@verizon.net

Shirley Jones honored by Bar Association

Shirley B. Jones has been named one of Baltimore's "Living Legal Legends" by the Bar Association of Baltimore City.



"The Honorees were selected, following a rigorous and highly competitive process, from an extensive list of excellent nominations from the Baltimore legal community based on the following criteria:

1. Enhancing the public's understanding of the law and the legal system;
2. Respect for their life-long adherence to the highest ethical standards;
3. Demonstration of professionalism throughout their career;
4. Inspiring others as a role model;
5. Recognition as a leader in the legal community and in the community in general;
6. At least 30 years commitment to the legal profession."

Shirley, a native of Cambridge, MD, received her A.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Baltimore, and has also been awarded three honorary doctorates. During her career she has served as Assistant City Solicitor, the first woman Assistant Attorney General of the State of Maryland, a Judge of the Orphan's Court, the first woman Judge of the Supreme Bench (now Circuit Court) of Baltimore City, and the first woman Judge of the U.S. District Court of Maryland. Following retirement, she and her husband Bill Jones retired to the Eastern Shore, but are now back in Baltimore, members of Grace Church, and residents of Edenwald.

We are proud of Shirley and join the many offering congratulations on this recognition.



The Zimmermans write from Nepal

(For full text of this interesting letter, please see the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the Sanctuary)

Kathmandu, March 2011.

Dear friends,

"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord"

Hebrews 12.14

In a country where 95% of the population is Hindu, we live in an environment where almost all our Nepali neighbours, colleagues and friends are Hindu. Although we are in the unusual position of waking each morning to a church bell (Kathmandu's only Catholic church is located just behind our apartment), the first morning light is punctuated with the tinkling of handbells and the chants of Hindu rituals from our neighbours' rooftops. Walking to the corner shop to collect our daily milk, I meet women with small brass plates carrying home the remains of their offerings after worshipping at the nearby temple. I step from the sunny street into the dark shop, where the gloom of lengthy powercuts is intensified by heavy draughts of incense from sticks set in front of a miniature altar, complete with Hindu idol. . . . Outside, fruit and vegetable sellers hoping for an 'auspicious' start to the day, take their first earnings and wipe them around their wares with a series of ritual chants and movements to encourage the blessings of the deities. Vehicles at the main intersection slow as their drivers nod and genuflect in the direction of the temple idols.

This weekend was Holi, one of the multiple Hindu festivals that punctuate the calendar here on an almost weekly basis. . . . Holi, appropriately known as the festival of colours, is celebrated by showering friends and family with water and coloured powders. With bright spring sunshine already lifting daytime temperatures above 20 C (70 F), it is a very popular festival with young and old alike. Excitement builds as brightly coloured water pistols of different sizes appear in the shops. . . . Our boys were thrilled when visitors left a gift of two waterpistols for them. We were less thrilled at having to face the issue as to whether or not they should be allowed play Holi, even as several other missionary families from school planned water parties for the day.

With Holi falling on a Saturday this year (Nepali Christians' day of worship), traveling to church was not going to be without risks. When we left at 10 am, the neighbour children were already covered from head to toe in red powder and were busy hurling buckets of water at the vegetable seller and his cart. However, they simply paused to wave and laugh at us without any further threat, while our boys made noises about getting back from church quickly so that they could join the fun. Out on the main road, a group of youths were pelting each other with plastic bags filled with murky solutions, this 'modern' version of the rubber water balloon . . . From the roofs of four or five storey buildings, whole binfuls of water cascaded down on unsuspecting pedestrians. . . . Even the most staid housewives could be seen shrieking with delight and running up and down stairs, chased by family wanting to smear their faces, hair, clothes, hands, everything, with the coloured powders. . . . But all in all the day would pass by uneventfully, and we traveled to and from church on our bikes, for the most part remaining dry.

These festivals however raise serious questions for many Nepali Christians. Their frequency and their interwoven-ness with social life here are a significant challenge to separating oneself from Hindu religious practice and ritual, something the church feels is essential to its identity. Hinduism is a religion that embraces multiple deities, religious teachings and practices, and many Hindus are happy to include Jesus Christ in their pantheon of gurus and leaders. The church feels it is important to take a stand that clearly reflects their faithfulness to Christ as their one and only Saviour, without the confusion of practices that may have Hindu origins. Weddings are an example of an occasion that is steeped in Hindu rituals, and thus it is that Christians not only marry in a church ceremony, but that the brides also generally wear a Western style pink or white gown. The fear is that the traditional red and gold wedding sari may carry some significance for Hindu observers and prevent them from clearly distinguishing the Christian faith. . . . The church is aware of the immense pressure and sense of isolation that many feel at this time, and so usually organises several days of events at churches for Christians to attend and enjoy together. . . . Some outsiders criticise what they see as the church's inability to distinguish between cultural and religious practice, and its failure to explore a truly Nepali expression of Christianity. They fear that this attitude only reinforces the concept that Christianity is a foreign religion and that Nepali Christians are not truly Nepali, an accusation frequently made by Hindu fundamentalists. At present the church is locked in an argument with the government over the provision by the state of land for Christian burial grounds. They refuse to consider the cremation of Christians because cremation rites have huge significance in the Hindu faith and are a bedrock to Hindu beliefs about proceeding to the next life. It is disconcerting for us to read in the local newspaper that a Christian committee has stated that cremation is not part of Christian tradition, and we wonder if this is a stand the church really needs to put so much energy into. But I am not sure that any of us non-Nepalis can fully understand their experience as a minority (at times, persecuted) faith in this country, nor their struggle for recognition in a land where the 'secular' government provides massive subsidies for Hindu sites and festivals. . . . Many Nepalese Christians report very tangible experiences of oppression by Hindu forces . . . Even in this day when Nepal is supposed to have freedom of religion, some Christians experience being cut out of their inheritance, denied land that is rightfully theirs, or being thrown out of their families because they have converted. It is not an easy or light choice that people make, and they usually endure far more than we ever will for their faithfulness to Christ.

So what to do about our boys' valid hopes to try out their new water pistols, and join in the water fights and fun outside our apartment for Holi? At church, we referred the matter to our Nepali pastor, who gently but unwaveringly stated that none of the other children from the church would be playing Holi. After the service, the church showed a film and provided snacks for the congregation as alternative entertainment for the afternoon. Our family instead braved the streets again and went home for our 'traditional' Sabbath nap. When the boys woke up the neighbour children were already out on the empty lot waiting for Mark to start a game of baseball. Grabbing mitts and bat, the boys headed out, water pistols left lying in our storeroom, waiting for another day.

With thanks for your journeying with us,
Deirdre, Mark, Zachary & Benjamin.

Within the Family at Grace

BIRTH

Robert Laird Wilhide
son of John and Erica Wilhide
January 25, 2011

BAPTISM

Ella Lucinda Berzins
March 27, 2011

DEATH

Mary Margaret Neal
April 5, 2011



in custodial personnel

We are pleased to welcome Chris Gause, our new daytime custodian who began his new duties in mid-April, and feel fortunate to have “one of our own” filling this important post on our staff. Chris will be working alongside our most helpful and efficient part-time custodian, Carolyn Sandler.

As former custodian Judd Watkins leaves Grace, we wish him well. Please hold him and his family in prayer as his wife, Naomi, faces health challenges at this time.

We continue efforts to find a suitable replacement for the evening custodial position vacated by Reginald Shields, who resigned with medical disability.

“Will bike for food”

Dr. Frances Northington of our congregation and choir is participating in a 140-mile bike ride to raise funds for Moveable Feast. Teams of cyclers will travel the road from Ocean City to Baltimore on May 14-15.

Moveable Feast provides healthy meals each day to persons with HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, homelessness, and other difficult situations. Each rider has pledged to raise at least \$1300, the cost of feeding one person for one year.

Should you wish to support Frances and her ride, please send your check payable to “Moveable Feast” to Moveable Feast, “Ride for the Feast,” P.O. Box 2298, Baltimore MD 21203. To give Frances credit, note her name, team name (The Shirley Temples), and supporter ID 324017327.

Thank you!!



“I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Dr. Brannan and Andrew Trofatter, vice-chair of the Trustees, announced that the new glass entranceway will be named by and in memory of Ross Z. Pierpont and Grace Pierpont, and by their children and grandchildren. Present at worship were the Pierpont’s daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Lippold von Klencke, visiting from Germany.

SPECIAL GIFTS

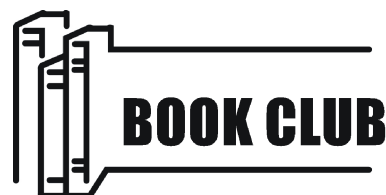
We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts to

THE MUSIC FUND

in memory of Dorris Hemmings by
David C. Brock

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Louise Pyle by
Michael and Amy Madsen



The Grace Book Club announces book selections to be read and discussed for the next several months. Please join them on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in the parlor for thoughtful conversation and fellowship.

May 2 - *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
June 6 - *Half-Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls
July 11 - *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
August 1 - *The Knitting Circle* by Ann Hood

Stay in the loop!

Take note of the new bulletin boards in the office hallway to read more about our missionaries and the Reconciling Ministries. Lots to look at and learn!

Communication from the Conference

Rev. Eugene Peterson to speak at St. Mary's Seminary

The Ecumenical Institute of Theology, St Mary's Seminary, will host Eugene Peterson on Friday, May 13 for "An Afternoon with Eugene Peterson: Conversations about *The Jesus Way and The Pastor: A Memoir.*" The program will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Registration is \$30 and pre-registration is required. Check-in and book signing will begin at 12:30 p.m. Space is limited with early registration recommended. The registration deadline is May 2.

Rev. Peterson is best known to many for his Bible paraphrase, *The Message*. He has written 36 other books. For further information, please call 410-864-4200, www.stmarys.edu.ei, or email ei@stmarys.edu

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"Change the World Mission Day"

October 8, 9 and 10, 2011

Imagine 15,000 United Methodists all working together in mission in their communities. Plans are now underway for a conference-wide event this fall. The Change the World Mission Day will celebrate the spirit of United Methodism, a faith built on social action. Congregations will be encouraged to move outside the walls of their local churches to serve in their communities.

You can expect further information from our Mission-Outreach Council about how you and Grace can serve.

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Security warning

One of the churches in the Baltimore Region (not Grace!) reported that a member of that congregation left keys in a jacket and someone removed them, drove away in their van and then burglarized their home while the keyowner was in worship. It is suspected that one thief works inside and the other works outside to observe people going in and out, communicating by cell phone.

Please be vigilant, on the look out for strangers who may look personable and harmless, but have other intentions. Keep you keys and identification with you!

Know your offering

- Of each \$100 given to the church in the offering, \$87.75 stays with the local church to support the program, personnel and ministry there.
- \$9.97 goes to the Baltimore-Washington Conference of our denomination as "apportionments" and with those funds from all other churches in the conference goes to Conference Ministries and Resources, Retiree Medical, Operations and Finance, Administration and Communications.
- The remaining \$2.29 goes to General Church Apportionments for World Services, the Episcopal Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, general administration of the African University, the Northeast Jurisdiction, and the Interdenominational Alliance.



R

ev. Nancy Webb, Mittie Quinn and Rev. Mary Key Totty of Dumbarton UMC at the potluck dinner we hosted for Reconciling Congregations on April 10.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet; you've got no time to spare, But as you hurry and scurry –
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER
In the midst of family chaos, "quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest -
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER
It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear. Slow down and take a breather -
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER
God knows how stressful life is; he wants to ease our cares, And he'll respond to all your needs -
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER



SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 20-24

Watch for more information

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Baltimore, MD 21210-2024

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This issue mailed April 25th
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PLEASE RUSH

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Emora T. Brannan, Ph.D
Associate Pastor	Nancy J. Webb
Minister of Pastoral Care	Patti M. Fenske
Visitation Pastor, emeritus	William E. Polk, Jr.
Director of Music/Organist	Bruce R. Eicher
Associate Organist	David C. Brock
Director, Children's Choirs	Kathryn Arnold
Director, Youth Choir	Robert Cantrell
Director, Handbells of Grace Quartet	John Kessell
	Alice Mack, soprano; Kathryn Arnold, contralto
	Steven James, tenor; Robert Cantrell, bass
	Andrew Trofatter, associate tenor
	David Beachler, Nancy Brannan
Youth Directors	Christina Rushing
Administrative Assistant	Lois Klein
Church and Business Secretary	Lynn Beachler
General Treasurer	Barbara Blair
Preschool Director	Chris Gause, Carolyn Sandler
Custodial Staff	Peggy Tyler, <i>emerita</i>

Grace Notes

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