HOLY THURSDAY - March 29 - 7:00 p.m.

Our Holy Thursday service will include a series of prayer stations that invite the congregation to enter into Jesus’s last night with his disciples. Redesigned last year, the service is accessible for all ages. We begin in Fellowship Hall and move to foot washing, art work, private prayer, and a celebration of Holy Communion. The service concludes in the sanctuary with the solemn stripping of the altar.

GOOD FRIDAY - March 30 - 3:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir will present the moving and reflective Choral Meditation A Service of Darkness by Dale Wood, accompanied by David Brock on the Organ and directed by Chris Schroeder. The work is adapted by the ancient Tenebrae.

--There will be no evening Good Friday service--

HOLY SATURDAY - March 31 - 5:00 p.m.

“Run to the Tomb” and Kindling of the Easter Vigil Fire

Join us for this 4th annual 1.3 mile run/walk through the Homeland neighborhood, then decorate the Courtyard for the Easter morning service and conclude with a service of prayer and kindling of the Easter Vigil Fire. This is a great family activity appropriate for all ages.

EASTER - April 1

7:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service in the courtyard
10:00 a.m. Festival Service with Holy Communion

Music by the Chancel Choir accompanied by
organ, brass quintet and timpani

Rev. Amy McCullough preaching, both services

DAY OF SERVICE - April 8

Worship at 9:30 (a single service) followed by a morning of service opportunities at church (see article on page 2)

April 15 - Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
April 22 - Confirmation Sunday - Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
April 29 - 8:30 a.m. - Rev. McCullough preaching

10:00 a.m. - Rev. Wanda Duckett, Baltimore Metropolitan District Superintendent, preaching
Congregational Day of Service - Sunday, April 8

We will observe a congregational Day of Service on Sunday, April 8th as part of our celebration of **150 Years of Grace in Baltimore City**. That morning we will gather for worship in one combined service at 9:30 a.m. and then have an opportunity for everyone to participate in a variety of service projects onsite at the church, each providing a needed service for those in Baltimore City who are less fortunate than we are. An anniversary celebration is about giving thanks for God’s grace and guidance over the past century and a half, and there is no better way than by putting God’s love into action by caring for others in need. After the service, from 10:00 to 12 noon:

- there will be a dinner brigade in the kitchen where a team will assemble 150 bagged meals to be taken down to the Weinberg Housing and Shelter.
- there will be quilt making in the Church Council Room where you can help tie a fleece quilt for clients of Healthcare for the Homeless.
- other activities will include packing UMCOR cleaning kits to be distributed in hurricane relief efforts,
- creating toiletry and goodie bags for the Ronald McDonald House, or
- making birthday cards to be handed out by Moveable Feast.

There will be opportunities for everyone and all ages. We hope you will join us as we give back a small measure of what we have to our City and our community.

Manna House donation

On Sunday, March 4, Grace Church presented Saleem Gauhar, Executive Director, with the first installment of Grace’s donation to Manna House’s capital campaign. (Katie Spearman, chair of Mission Outreach, and Suzanne Stevens, Church Council Chair, above with Rev. Amy McCullough and Mr. Gauhar)

In this capital drive, Manna House is trying to raise the necessary funds to construct a new kitchen, storage and serving facility, as well as renovate and expand several offices and toilet and shower facilities, and make necessary repairs to the basement to meet the growing needs of its clientele.

Grace has long supported the ministry of Manna House which brings nourishment, skills, support and vital care to the poor and needy of Baltimore. We have committed $25,000 to Manna House’s campaign which will be fulfilled over a two-year period between 2018-2019.

These funds come from the income generated by Grace’s Rawlings Trust. The Mission-Outreach team, along with the Church Council, is proud to be supporting God’s work in our city through this donation.

Mr. Gauhar was our guest speaker that morning, telling of Manna House’s vital and rapidly expanding ministry. He expressed sincere appreciation for our gift and continuing support of all that the staff there attempts to do for those in need.

**Roberta Scoville to preach**

Rev. Dr. Roberta J. Scoville, Associate Pastor at Grace from 1986-1990, returns to preach on Sunday, May 6th as we celebrate the 8th anniversary of our becoming a Reconciling Congregation. For those who were members during her pastorate, this will be a special opportunity to greet her again.

Please circle the date on your calendar and come to share in this two-fold celebratory occasion.

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Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists (BWARM) and the Baltimore-Washington Federation for Social Action (MFSA) present “Inclusive Conversations for a Way Forward” Saturday, April 7 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

An educational conference addressing the critical issues in our world, and before our denomination concerning social justice and LGBTQ inclusion

**Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center**

11711 East Market Place, Fulton

See details regarding registration and program on the poster outside the church office.
Warmest wishes to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in April:
2 Thomas E. Green, Jr.
3 Omar Calderon, Elise DeFilippis, Zachary Green
4 Mary Frances Manning, Ryan Riddle
6 Eva Metz, Mary T. White
8 Wonwoo Lee
9 Josefina Mian, Nila Murray, Bruce S. Rice
11 Diana McGraw
12 Hayes Hudkins, Missy Laytham
13 Robin Benfer
15 Georgia Barnes, Quinn Bathory-Gimigliano, Riley Bathory-Gimigliano, Leah Sukri
17 Brian Pflaum, Allegra Schmidt
18 Sheldon Lebowitz, Lely Yanega
19 Richard Brooks
20 Nancy S. Blackstone, Todd Canter, Lindsay Cheek
21 Maggie Grandsire, Peggy Thorne, William Wilkerson
22 Dick Fulton
23 Jeffrey Keenan, Earline Patenaude, Wilma Starkey
24 Thomas A. Green, Leigh Howe, Margot Wittich
26 Campbell Barnes, Marin Heath, Sara Nichols, Ken Rhoad, Bryce Schmidt
27 Amy G. Pflaum, Kate Scott
28 Bob McIntire
29 Caroline Breeden
30 Elisabeth Dahl (Davis), Emily Riddle, Hayden White

**In the Morning**

When my feet hit the floor I give You praise
And before I go out the door I give You praise
I praise You for waking me up
God I know that was not by luck
I thank You for another day
And I thank You for showing me the way
Lord I could never be without You
I’d be lost and wouldn’t know what to do
Lord make me stronger
Help me be calmer
My first word is to praise You
And all during my day I keep raising You
I pray all day long
Determined to do no wrong
I want to respect You
So believers will know whom I belong to
I want to make You proud
I am not worrying about the crowd
Because my love is true
I look forward to another day
As long as You allow me to stay
I put my life in Your hands
I know it’s going to be with some demands
I am going all the way
I know it’s no time to play
I worship and praise Your holy name
Lord all I’ve been through I know this is not a game
I praise You in the morning, I praise You at night
I know You’re coming soon to make all this craziness right.
Amen

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The poem above was written by a Grace member who wished to share it with the congregation via Grace Notes, but wanted to remain anonymous.

**Just in case...**

The Trustees have purchased and mounted emergency defibrillators on every floor of our church facilities. The one in the photograph is on the wall just outside the sanctuary next to the Tower Room. A number of staff, ushers and other members have taken the training. We hope never to need it, but it is comforting to know that we are prepared.

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**Grace Book Club**

The book for April 9th is

**Into the Water**

by Paula Hawkins

Join the discussion at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

For May the group has selected

**Thank You for Being Late**

by Thomas Friedman

New members are always welcome to come on the second Monday of each month.
Welcome to our newest members

Carlyle Armstrong and Justin Graves

Curtis and Valerie Adams
with John and Cecelia

Priscilla Newton

On February 4\textsuperscript{th}, we received several new members into the Grace family. Please make them feel welcome when you meet them!

\begin{center}
\textbf{11\textsuperscript{th} Annual Gala and Auction}
benefitting the Grace Outreach Back Pack Program
\textbf{Sunday, May 6 from 5-8 p.m.}
\end{center}

The Gala will have a new look this year giving you more time to check out the silent auction items, enjoy tantalizing appetizers and enjoy each other’s company! Bid on many of the old favorites as well as some new offerings - something for everyone - gift cards to restaurants, food items, Orioles tickets, lots of fun experiences! Child care available. If you have extra gift cards, consider donating them. A special skill and expertise? Offer a lesson as an auction item. Email: Sue Williams at suzanne.williams@fundltc.com or contact the church office. Bring a guest or 2 to help us meet our goal.

Dianne Van Seiver
20th Annual French Organ Music Marathon
SUNDAY, MAY 20 beginning at 2:00 p.m.
Grace’s Director of Music Emeritus Bruce Eicher
will join other members of the Baltimore Chapter of the American
Guild of Organists in playing selections from the glorious French repertoire.
What a wonderful opportunity to hear gifted artists playing one of the best instruments in this city!
No admission charge - Free will offering

New Wave Singers Spring Concert
On Saturday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m., Grace Church will host The New Wave Singers as the ensemble performs A Spring Awakening concert. Founded in 1985, this Baltimore community chorus comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight individuals performs songs of hope, diversity, inclusion and humor, celebrating all of humanity in its infinite variations and challenging communities to embrace equality, harmony and understanding.
Tickets may be purchased at www.newwavesingers.org or at the door the evening of the concert.

“Holding Fast to Dreams”
The 2018 Carroll lecture at St. Mary’s Seminary and University will be delivered by Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III on Thursday, April 12th, marking the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his lecture, “Holding Fast to Dreams: Higher Education and Society 50 Years after Dr. King’s Assassination,” Dr. Hrabowski is uniquely positioned to reflect on where we are 50 years later – both in Baltimore and in our nation.
He has been the president of the University of Baltimore since 1992.
The lecture is free and open to the public but registration is requested at 2018carrolllecture.eventbrite.com. The event is co-sponsored by the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council and St. Mary’s Ecumenical Institute, and will take place in Laubacher Hall at St. Mary’s, 5400 Roland Ave. at 7:30 p.m.
Rolling River Rampage invites children on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Relevant music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories will help kids know that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of amazing grace!

**June 24-30, 2018 -- 9:00-12:00 pm**

Children ages 3 years and older

Extended Day 12:00-4:00 available for an additional cost

Wildlife Adventures will return as part of the VBS program! Each day kids will have the opportunity to be up close and personal with a different animal - God's amazing creatures!

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**Vacation Theatre School**

**August 20-25**

9:00-3:00 pm

Children ages 5 years and older

Watch for coming details as to registration

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"Pedal for Pediatrics"

On April 27, the Grace Preschool Parents Group will be sponsoring a new community event to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Division of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. Called "Pedal for Pediatrics," it will be held during the school day at Grace and will feature a trike ride on a course laid out on a secured area of our parking lot. Each child in the Threes, Fours and Kindergarten will be invited to bring his or her bike or scooter to school to participate in a fun ride outside.

Shahla and Brad Price, parents of Zara who had been a cancer patient at Hopkins, feel indebted to the pediatric oncologists and researchers at Hopkins, and their letter to the Preschool families says, "Every single dollar raised for Pedal for Pediatrics at Grace Preschool will support Johns Hopkins pediatric oncology patients, siblings and families as they, too, attempt to navigate their way through pediatric cancer. . . .Please consider friends and family that may be willing to 'sponsor' your child for this event, helping us to raise money and awareness for this incredible cause." Should you wish to help, you may make a check payable to Grace Church and the funds will be forwarded to the Preschool.
Another small group opportunity for readers?

The definition of a small group ministry is “the process or act of caring for one another.” A group of church members who have a common interest can form a group that will become a “small group.”

Some members of the congregation (some who no longer drive in evenings but love to read) have suggested an afternoon book club. The group could be a mixture of members of all ages unified by their interest in reading. They would begin by choosing books that are of interest to them, then come together to share thoughts about what they have read. Thus, a small group would be born!

If this would be of interest to you, please email Maureen Danz at maur.danz@verizon.net and we can discuss the possibilities.

Small groups can be important to the growth of a church congregation in nurturing its individual members.