

# Grace Notes

## Grace United Methodist Church

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



www.GraceUnitedMethodist.org

--To Act so that God's Love is Felt by All--

Volume 27, No. 8

August 2019



## Preaching and Worship

**REMEMBER - IN AUGUST WE HAVE ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY  
AT 10:00 AM**

*Children's Sunday School and Nursery Care during the 10:00 am service*

<b>August 4</b>	<b>Pastor Dane Wood</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Pastor Dane Wood</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Dr. Daniel Castillo</b>



The Reverend Dr. Veronice Miles is the Associate Professor of Preaching at Wesley Theological Seminary, having served on the faculty since 2016. An ordained Baptist minister, Dr. Miles is a graduate of the University of Florida and Emory University where she received her Masters of Divinity and Ph.D. Her current research delves into the topic of Christian hope, as she explores how preaching emboldens individuals and communities of faith to live with hope as an expression of our affirmative response to God's "yes" for creation and for our lives.

Dr. Daniel Castillo is an assistant professor of theology at Loyola University of Maryland, where he teaches courses in liberation theology and environmental ethics and is a Bunting Peace and Justice Fellow. His book, *An Ecological Theology of Liberation: Salvation and Political Ecology* (Orbis Books, forthcoming) explores the relationship between salvation, liberation and care for creation, within the context of the politico-ecological planetary emergency. Dr. Castillo earned his Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame in 2014. While at Notre Dame, he was a National Science Foundation-funded GLOBES Fellow and a Hispanic Theological Initiative Fellow.



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on the front lawn for children in Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade **12:15 pm to 3:15 pm**

Bring your friends and a towel! Food and beverages available for purchase. Questions? 410-464-4014 or [cmccullough@cmoq.org](mailto:cmccullough@cmoq.org)

*Sponsored by the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen and Grace UM Church*



## Missions, discipleship, and keeping up with teenagers!

Dear Grace Church,

It is my pleasure and honor to write this article as your new “Full-Time” Associate Pastor. I was previously serving at ¾ time. I will continue to carry out the duties I have thus far but with a new emphasis on Youth and Young Adult Discipleship. I was very excited to go with some of our youth on a mission trip to Harrisburg, PA in June. We worked to clean abandoned houses, stock a food bank, weed and plant in a community garden, and visited at a nursing home. It was a powerful week of fun, work, and worship. I felt like it was a great start to our future Youth ministries.

My hope is that we will be able to grow and expand our youth program in the coming years. This will begin this Fall with a weekly Youth Fellowship time on Sunday evenings. 2 hours devoted to hanging out, eating, learning, and playing games. I’ll need youth, of course, but will also need adult volunteers to help and feed us. You’ll hear a lot more about this in the coming month. We’ll also be planning regular trips, keeping the Hershey Park trip in the summer, but also looking to add in Winter Retreats and Spring Break activities. I want to build our Youth program to the point that Youth are over 10% of our attending congregation. That’s a big goal, but it’s very possible with God’s and your help.



Youth is our first task, but very quickly I will also be looking to build a Young Adult (18-29) program. We, like so many churches, have a gap in our congregation. We lack young persons who attend and participate. I hope to start off-campus studies and covenant groups, as well as plan trips just for this age group. If you are interested in joining, leading, or just volunteering with this group, please let me know. I’ll take any ideas and help I can get, and won’t be able to succeed without you.

This is a lot. I know it can be done and its important for this Church. Not for the Future... but for the Present. We are not the best church we can be, unless we have youth and young adults as part of our active community. Thank you to Rev. Dr. Amy McCullough and the Staff Parish Relations Committee for entrusting me with this task, and thank you, congregation, for all the support you have given and will continue to give.

God Bless,

Pastor Dane ([dane@graceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:dane@graceunitedmethodist.org))

## Staffing updates from SPRC

Last spring, Dr. Trisha Wetzberger, who has served as Grace’s Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, left her position here to pursue a new position in early childhood care. Since her departure, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has been evaluating the best way to fill this critical need for ministering to children, youth, and their families at Grace.

On Sunday, June 30, Michelle Riddle, the Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, shared with the congregation new developments in Grace’s staffing. First, beginning on July 1, the Associate Pastor position, which has been set at a 3/4 time position since July 2017, has returned to a full-time position and will incorporate directing our ministries to youth and their families. Pastor Dane Wood has been appointed to this position by our Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and begins his second year at Grace.

Secondly, we are pleased to welcome Ms. Carolyn Young as Grace’s new Director of Children’s Ministries. Ms. Young comes to Grace with a rich background of working with children, churches, education, and Christian formation. She has served in churches, as a consultant in children’s Christian curriculum, and operated her own preschool. Ms. Young begins her ministry with Grace on July 15. The Director of Children’s Ministries is a part-time position of twenty hours per week.

The last staffing update provided by the SPRC involves our Communication Coordinator position. We are grateful to Grace member Diane Lesman who has been serving, in an interim capacity, as our Communications Coordinator throughout this summer.

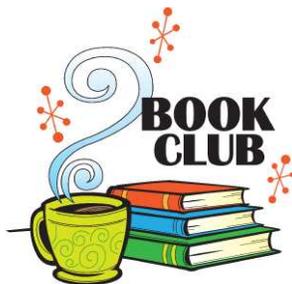
Each of these staffing pieces are reasons to give thanks to God for continued ministry at Grace, and the SPRC is excited to share them with the congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Michelle Riddle, SPRC chair, or one of Grace’s pastors.





Hearty congratulations to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in August:

- 1 James Thorne, Madeline Wasylak
- 3 Amaya Greenberg
- 4 Courtney English-Doud
- 5 Erin Cheek, John Edgar Locke
- 6 Peggy McCabe
- 9 David Farace, Connor Franklin, Pam Tyler
- 10 Bonnie Graziosi, Betty Nottrodt, Abbott Ottinger, Laura Ottinger
- 11 Betty Dempster, Lauren Friedel
- 12 Stephen Gilbert, Michael O'Dwyer
- 14 Jamieson Allen
- 15 Todd English
- 16 Beth Mentusky, Emily Rombach, Andrew Trofatter
- 18 Lisa Sharpe
- 19 Sarah Camp-Mugford, Whitney Ann Scheiner, Patrick Shaner, Sadie Yanega
- 20 James Doub
- 21 Barbara Bond, Allie Holle, Steve Painter
- 22 Harrison Gilbert, Amy McCullough, Chris Schroeder
- 23 Carlie Plitt
- 24 Dianne Van Sciver
- 25 Spencer DeMetrick, Burt English, Weston Vargas
- 28 Christina Becker-Birck, Abby Sharpe
- 29 Don Greenman
- 30 Mary Aikins-Afful, Molly Cornbrooks, Judy Gillan, Evan Kick, Lynne Sharpe
- 31 Doris Franklin, Robby Harris



The Book Club has plans for a special summer treat for August 12, meeting at SubZero Ice Cream in Hunt Valley in lieu of its regular discussion time at the church. Members can begin reading for coming months:

For September 9<sup>th</sup> the book will be *Code Girls* by Liza Munday and for October 14, *Andy Warhol Was a Hoarder* by Claudia Kalb.

Always keep your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.



Dear Grace United Methodist Church,

Thank you for giving us food because some people don't have food and someone might not have the right money to get food. So thank you for doing great things. You really help people and you are kind for doing that.

*[from one of the children who received a backpack from the weekly distribution given by Grace throughout the school year]*

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Members of Grace United Methodist Church,

Thank you for taking out the ad in yesterday's Baltimore Sun and so eloquently expressing your views about the recent General Conference's positions concerning the LGBTQ+ community.

It means a lot to me and my partner to see your public declaration.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Hanson (grew up in the United Methodist Church, and a partner of a transman who also grew up in the United Methodist Church)

*[one of many email responses received]*

**Within the Family at Grace**

**BAPTISM**

Matthew Steele Adams  
son of Valerie and Curtis Adams and  
brother of James and Cecelia  
June 23, 2019

**SPECIAL GIFTS**

We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts

in memory of  
LINDA SIGLIN by  
Carole A. Keating  
Mary Lou Bernota  
Josephine Ricciardelli



## Welcome to our new Soprano Soloist and Section Leader

We are pleased to welcome Leah Inger as our new Soprano Soloist and Section Leader! Leah's first Sunday with us will be July 28<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted to have Leah joining Grace's Music Ministry!

Soprano Leah Inger has been praised by *The Baltimore Sun* for her "bright, flexible soprano" and "bell-like voice." A versatile artist, her career spans opera, oratorio, chamber music, new music, musical theater, and cabaret. She has performed with Opera Vivente, Baltimore Concert Opera, Young Victorian Theatre Company, and Peabody Opera Theater in such roles as Almirena in *Rinaldo*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Miss Wordsworth in *Albert Herring*, the title role in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, and Yum Yum in *The Mikado*. She has also made concert appearances with the Bay Atlantic Symphony, Southern Delaware Chorale, Deer Creek Chorale, Danbury Music Centre, Annapolis Chorale, and Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

An interest in music of our time has led Leah to multiple appearances on the Evolution Contemporary Music Series. In 2014, she was the understudy and cover for the premiere of Michael Hersch's one-woman opera, *On the Threshold of Winter*, presented at Brooklyn Academy of Music. Other premieres include Damon Ferrante's *Super Double Lite* and *Jefferson and Poe*, both performed at Symphony Space in New York City, and a debut recording in 2005 with Curt Cacioppo's *Songs from Paternina*.

A native of Tennessee, Leah holds degrees from Georgetown College, Towson University, and Peabody Conservatory where she studied with Phyllis Bryn-Julson. She sings with the Washington National Opera Chorus and is a current student of Elizabeth Daniels. In addition to performing, Leah teaches at Roland Park Country School, Notre Dame of Maryland University, and Towson University.

Leah lives in Rodgers Forge with her two children, Sabina (9) and Felix (6), and their cat Rudolph.



## ORGAN MYSTERY

As has been written in previous issues of *Grace Notes*, a major portion of the organ has been removed and sent for cleaning, revoicing and renewal. For those of us who are novices to how to play the organ, we cannot even tell that many sounds are "on sick leave"! But what a challenge to the organist to know which stops are among the missing or which are still available for use when setting the registrations for playing.

I was really intrigued when I saw how they could know. Each of the stops that has temporarily been taken out is now marked with a piece of blue tape covering its name.

We look forward to the reinstallation of these pipes, completing the wonderful array of musical sounds from our fine organ, so ably demonstrated by the Chris and David, the gifted organists in our Music Ministry.

## Ave et Atque

### Parting Words to Grace UMC from Henry Perry

Sunday 7 July 2019

For 12 years now our family has been nourished by our participation in the life of this wonderful church and its community. Now, sadly, the time has come for us to say goodbye. I have been honored to serve as your Lay Leader during the past 18 months. But more importantly, you as our church home have helped to keep all three of us centered on who we are and whose we are, and what God is calling us to be and to do. It has been a joy to know so many of you – and to be inspired by so many of you and the lives you lead as you seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

We have shared so many transcendent moments with you over the past 12 years – not only in this sanctuary during the worship service but in other events the church has had in other times and places, including in our wonderful Sunday School class. One of these for me was when I read before you during our Gospel Sunday in February a reflection on the Beloved Community – a critical mass of people who are committed to bearing witness to the Prince of Peace in a hurting and suffering world. The pursuit of the beloved community is one of the guiding forces of our church – of Grace UMC, and I feel so blessed to have been a part of this pursuit for the past 12 years.

We look forward to staying in touch and coming back to visit when we can. In the meantime, we will treasure our memories that we share with you and give thanks for the blessings that God has provided to me and our family through our fellowship with you. May the Grace and Peace of the Holy Spirit bless, comfort and care for all of us in God's abiding love.

### Doing some estate planning?

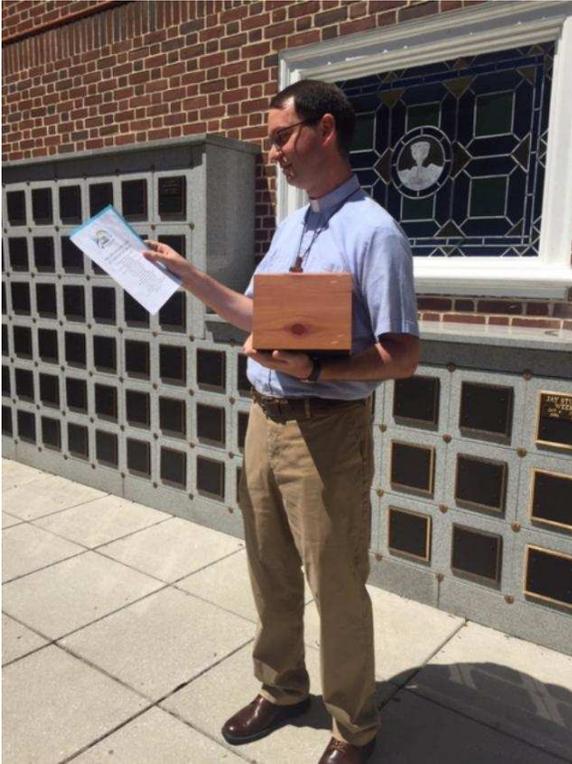
Please consider a bequest to the Grace Church Endowment Fund. Your gift will help assure that the ministries of our church will continue in the years ahead.



Grace Church is happy to welcome Sue Stein who joined our family last month.



Carl Hickey (left) with Dr. Arthur Sutherland, Grace's Theologian-in-Residence, who will come this fall.



## Time capsule in its resting place

On Sunday, June 23, a time capsule containing memorabilia from our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration year was dedicated and soon after placed in Niche #18 (for the year 2018) in the columbarium in the courtyard's Memorial Garden. Pastor Dane blessed the box and its contents for a number of the congregation present. The niche space was opened the following day by George Kahl and then sealed until the year 2068 when we hope the church will open the niche and the box to share this special commemorative period of our church's history.



## GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE



*A History of Grace Methodist Church 1868-1957*

by George W. Dexter

*A History of Grace United Methodist Church 1951-2018*

by Katherine Bond Allen

*Grace Notes* issues for January 2018-December 2018

Bulletins for Anniversary Services

Christmas Anniversary Ornament

Music at Grace Concert Brochure

Church Membership Roster

Lay Leadership Report

Social Justice Concert Program

Copy of Commissioned Anniversary Anthem

with text by Marcia Gleckler and

music by Christopher Schroeder

Anniversary Dinner Program

2018 Stewardship Campaign Brochure

USB Flash Drive with various digital photographs, sermons,

music, and services

and assorted other items



If you are contemplating a permanent resting place for yourself or a family member, you might wish to consider the Grace Church Columbarium.

For more information, please contact George Kahl in the Church Office.

Grace United Methodist Church  
5407 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21210-2024

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This issue mailed July 22nd  
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PLEASE RUSH



Faith is the assurance  
of things hoped for,  
the conviction  
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NRSV



### On the lighter side...

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture which showed four people on an airplane. She asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus. But who is the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius, the pilot!"

\* \* \*

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes indeed, honey," he said. "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective cheeks again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"