

GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 18, Casanova, Virginia 20139 (540)

788-42010



RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS - May 2011

Dear Ones,

By the time you read this, our celebration of Easter will be a fond memory.

Easter is the culmination of the Incarnation story which we began in December. It began with the birth of the baby who is God incarnate. Incarnatus – Latin for meat or flesh. God incarnate is God in the flesh. A concept we have heard about for so many years that it may be easy for us to miss the incredible magnificence that God would do – did do – such a thing. For us. For you. For me. For all! A gift so great, both in magnitude and generosity, that we cannot really take it in fully. Christ died for all.

What if it was not for all? What if you or I were the only person? Would Jesus still have come if there was but one to die for? I believe that He would have done so but there is no specific “chapter and verse” that tells us so. Sometimes we read about Jesus speaking to a crowd or a gathering of people (other than the 12). But so often we see Him speaking with only one person and ministering to the one. The recent Sunday reading of the woman at the well in John 4 is a good

example. He was there that day for her. God in the flesh meeting with her to bring life to her in the now and forever.

We, who are the body of Christ here on earth, are called to live out the Incarnation of Jesus for others so that they too may meet and know Him. We are the body. The story which follows is taken from a book I found last year called *Grace Notes*. It is excerpts of the writings of Phillip Yancey, author and long time editor of *Christianity Today* magazine. The readings are arranged to be a set of daily readings, one for each day of the year, much like the book *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers is done. This is the reading for May 8. Henri Nouwen, of whom Yancey speaks, was a Roman Catholic priest of world renown in his day and still known by many through his writings.

“I once visited Henri Nouwen at L’Arche, a home for the seriously disabled near Toronto. We shared lunch in his small room. A renowned psychologist and theologian who had taught at Ivy League

universities, Nouwen had become highly successful as an author and conference speaker, yet here the church “industry” seemed very far away.

After lunch we celebrated a special Eucharist service for Adam, the young man Nouwen looked after. He led the liturgy in honor of Adam’s 26th birthday. Unable to talk, walk, or dress himself, profoundly retarded, Adam gave no sign of comprehension. He seemed to recognize, at least, that his family had come. He drooled throughout and grunted loudly a few times.

Later Nouwen told me it took him two hours to prepare Adam each day: bathing and shaving him, brushing his teeth, combing his hair guiding his hand as he tried to eat breakfast. I must admit I had a fleeting doubt as to whether this was the best use of the busy priest’s time. ‘I am not giving up anything,’ Nouwen insisted. ‘It is I, not Adam, who gets the main benefit from our friendship.’

It had been difficult for him at first, he (*Nouwen*) said. Yet in the process he had learned what it must be like for God to love us -- spiritually uncoordinated, retarded, able to respond with what must seem to God like inarticulate grunts and groans.

Nuwen has said that all his life two voices competed inside him. One encouraged him to succeed and achieve, while the other called him to simply rest in the comfort that he was "the beloved" of God. Only in the last decade of his life did he truly listen to that second voice. Ultimately Nouwen concluded that "the goal of education and formation for the ministry is continually to recognize the Lord's voice, His face, and His touch in every person we meet."

Yancey continues, "I will miss Henri Nouwen. For me a single image captures him best: the energetic priest, hair in disarray, using his restless hands as if to fashion a homily out of thin air, celebrating an eloquent birthday Eucharist for an unresponsive child-man so damaged that most parents would have had him aborted. A better symbol of the Incarnation, I can hardly imagine."

The image which Yancey extracts from Nouwen's life is a profound image of God's love, care and patience with us. Let us consider this image as we look for and serve Christ in one another, so that we both

be and see the Incarnation of Christ in ourselves and others.

Blessings, Jim

ADULT EDUCATION RESUMES IN MAY

We will begin Adult Education classes on Sunday May 8 and run through Sunday June 5. That is 6 weeks of Ad. Ed. before we hit the summer slump. Plan to attend!

CONCERT

The Fellowship Class of Front Royal United Methodist Church will sponsor a piano performance by Michael Calhoun at 3:00 pm. on Sunday, May 15, at the Blue Ridge Arts Council Center in Front Royal. The program will consist of Chopin's *Etude in A-flat*, "Aeolian Harp," transcriptions of a *Prelude in G* by Bach; the "Pas de deux" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, Sullivan's "The Lost Chord", Adams's "The Holly City", the "Waltz" from Lehar's *Merry Widow*, and an improvisation on "The Impossible Dream" from *Man of la Mancha*. The program will be narrated by Mr. John Vance of Front Royal. Currently residing in Springfield, VA, the pianist holds a master's degree from W.Va. Wesleyan College. He has served as a public school band director, taught music appreciation for W.Va. Northern Community College and served as a class instructor in piano for Fairfax

County. He serves as the organist of Grace Episcopal Church and St Stephen's Episcopal Church and in Fauquier County and has taught privately for 35 years. He is a privately-published composer and poet.

The program is open to the public; there is no admission charge and everyone is welcome

TREASURER'S REPORT MARCH 2011

Income for the month of March was \$10,642.79 (budget \$10,698.00). Expenses totaled \$11,387.29 (budget \$10,698.00), resulting in a deficit for the month of \$744.50 There were no bills due and unpaid at the end of the month.

Grace received a pledge in January which was designated for the payment of Fr. Jim's pension premiums if Grace was unable to make the payment; if we are able to make the payments, the pledge is to be paid to Fr. Jim as a cash bonus to supplement his reduced income. Fr. Jim's pension premium for the first quarter of 2011 was paid and we are financially able to make the 2nd quarter premium; therefore, the Vestry approved the payment of the accumulated pledge of \$1,095.00 to Fr. Jim as a cash bonus for the first quarter of 2011.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If anyone has any questions regarding this report or any financial matter, please feel free to contact me.

Judy Ball, Treasurer

Grace Church

May 2011

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
1	2	3	4 *Donna Shipe	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:00 United Thank Offering Sunday	9	10	11* 11:00 AM Senior Center *Sue Ballentine	12 *Rick Anderson	13	14
15 Worship 9:00 Grace Notes deadline #Bryan & Barbara Jacobs *Betsy Anderson	16 7:00 Vestry Meeting	17	18 * 11:00 AM Senior Center	19 Ruritan Dinner 7 PM	20 *Jane Childs	21 *Karen Walton *Bobbie Gould- thorpe
22 Worship 9:00	23	24	25 * 11:00 AM Senior Center	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:00	30	31				

* = Birthday #Anniversary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

May 4 Donna Shipe
 May 10 Sue Ballentine
 May 12 Rick Anderson
 May 14 Carol Payne
 May 15 Betsy Anderson
 May 20 Jane Childs
 May 21 Karen Walton &
 Bobbie Gouldthorpe,

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

TO:
 May 15 Bryan & Barbara Jacobs

THANKS

Our heartfelt thanks to Carol Goshorn for her invaluable help in translating some articles submitted for Grace Notes to a format we can use in the newsletter. The Editor

Grace Church Serving Schedule -- May 2011

Date	Svc	Day	Lessons	Lector	Acolyte	Altar	Coffee Hosts	
May 1	HE 9 AM	Easter 2	Psalm 16 Acts 2:14a, 22-32	1 Peter 13-9 John 20:19-31	B Gould- thorpe	Doris Pearson Barbara Jacobs	Barbara & Greg McLeod	
May 8	HE 9 AM	Easter 3	Psalm 116:1-3, 10=17 Acts 2:14a, 38-41	1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 34: 13-35	Ron Fahy	Jack Perry Mignon Spellmeyer	Judy Ball & Barbara Whitbred	
May 15	HE 9 AM	Easter 4	Psalm 23 Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-19	Judy Ball	Madell Day Charlotte Perry	Sue Ballentine	
May 22	HE 8 AN	Easter 5	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Acts 7:55-60	2 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Betsy Anderson	Carol Goshorn	Carol Goshorn	Doris & Ralph Pearson
May 29	HE 9 AM	Easter 6	Psalm 66:7-18 Acts 17:22-31	1 Peter 3:13-22 John 13:13-21	Tom Swann	Doris Spellmeyer	Betsy Anderson	Mary Meal
Jun 5	HE 9 AM	Easter 7	Psalm 68:1-10 Acts 1:6-14	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-22 John 17:1-11	Dee Garrett	Jack Perry Doris Pearson	Mignon Spellmeyer & Dee Garrett	

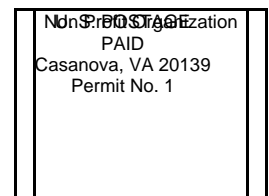
SUNDAY SCHOOLS TEACHERS

May 1 Charlotte Perry
May 8 Mary Neal

May 15 Mary Neal
May 22 Mary Neal
May 29 Mary Neal

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev. James Cirillo, Rector

P.O. Box 18
Casanova, VA 20139
(540) 788-4419
Website: gracechurchcasanova.org



Sunday School for all ages in the Family Center near the church.
