

LENT/EASTER 2022

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

GRACE NOTES

NEWS IN AND AROUND THE GRACE CHURCH COMMUNITY

In This Issue

EASTER AT GRACE

BISHOP'S VISIT

CELEBRATE THE
FREEMANS

GIO AND PRESCHOOL
NEWS



**THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY. THE TOMB WAS EMPTY.
AND SUDDENLY THE WORLD WAS CHANGED.**

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. Then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' -1 Corinthians 15 Once again, Easter comes true. Alleluia!! -ML Ball

LENT BEFORE EASTER

BY THE REV. DR. MATTHEW CALKINS



Ash Wednesday is March 2nd, the start of Lent. Spring is on its way, Holy Week and Easter too.

I'm ready for spring, that's for sure. For getting outside and feeling the warm sun, seeing the first crocuses and forsythia, followed by sudden green everywhere. Please, Lord, let us emerge from our pandemic hibernation as well. Protect the people, especially the vulnerable, lower the transmission rate to a point where we can mostly unmask, see each other's smile, and get back to something approaching normal.

Ah, we will see. First let's do Lent. Let's take most of March and the first week of April to reflect on what we've been through and be honest with ourselves and each other. There is much to reflect on. This long pandemic has wounded us deeply, as individuals, families, nation and world. To call it a disruption is an understatement. Parents, children, teachers; those in the medical field and all those who have experienced the illness or lost someone; those in the front lines and those in the trenches; those who have moved, changed, adapted to a new reality, remote and connected at the same time, oddly. Anxiety, polarization, anger; new perspectives, change of life and new directions; all are affected, but none the same, exactly.

Let's be kind to each other as a first step. Do some acts of kindness and simple courtesy. Be gentle with yourself when looking inside to see what sins hold you in bondage. But be honest too. After all, self-examination and fasting are tools for freeing the self. Ask yourself, What do I need to give up for Lent? The answer is not (just) sweets.

It won't be easy to release all the anger and frustration and anxiety. To forgive others, even our enemies, even ourselves, through embracing the way of love, the way of Jesus. It isn't easy because it passes through the cross. Sorry, but there it is. You can't get to Easter without going through Good Friday, no resurrection without the cross, no reward without sacrifice. And I mean self-sacrifice; scapegoats are tempting, but the road starts at the door of my heart with the work of confession, repentance and turning and returning to the way of life and love.

That's what we long for, isn't it? New life, abundant life, flowering, joyful and eternal life. Let's work and pray for it this Lent and Easter. "Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen" (Collect for Fridays, BCP 99).

See you on Sunday, Matt+

LENT/EASTER SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 2

12:00pm Service in English

6:00pm Service in Spanish

7:00pm Service in English

PALM SATURDAY: APRIL 9

10:00am-noon Palm Saturday Prayer Walk

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 10

8:00am Palm Sunday service

9:30am Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms at bandshell across the street from Grace. After the blessing, we will process to Grace for the Palm Sunday service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 14

7:00pm A solemn service including sacred music, Eucharist, and the stripping of the altar

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 15

Noon St. Peter's Lithgow: Fr. Calkins preaching

7:00pm Grace Church: Fr. Dell preaching

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: APRIL 16

7:00pm A special Easter service that begins with new fire and ends with Alleluias

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 17

8:00am Easter service with music and sermon

10:00am Choir leads a joyous celebration of Easter with sermon and Holy Eucharist

EASTER EGG HUNT

Following the 10am service on Easter Sunday. Bags will be provided.

THE FREEMANS: A FAMILY WHO LIVES TO GIVE

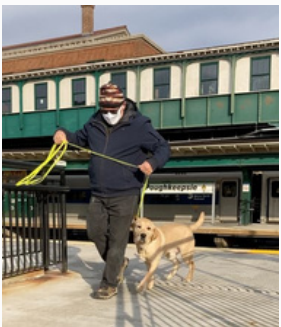


Alex, Denis, Scott and Pam

So many people these days live only for themselves, putting their wants and needs above everyone else's. Not the Freeman family: Pam, Denis, Alex and Scott. They spend their lives serving, feeding, facilitating, rescuing. From training seeing eye dogs to running the annual golf tournament to recording Sunday services to fighting fires, they enrich the lives of all those around them, especially our Grace Church community.

Originally parishioners at St. Paul's in Pleasant Valley, Pam and Denis were looking for a youth program for their two young boys and checked out Grace in Millbrook. They met Lynda Boissey and Robin Capers who were teaching Sunday School at the time, and that was all it took. That was 25 years ago, and from then on, they have played major roles in making Grace the warm, friendly, community-focused church that it is.

Denis, a Staten Island native, wears two very important hats. For four years, he has been Coordinator of the Food of Life Pantry at St Thomas Amenia, ordering the food and making sure the processes work correctly and efficiently. When he started there, the pantry served 40 families. Now it serves more than 120. "The pandemic has really heightened the need for food," he says. "Our volume has tripled in two years, so much so that St. Thomas recently built a new, larger food distribution building called Harvest House."



In addition, for five years Denis has been a volunteer puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes For The Blind, a national organization which provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. So far the Freemans have trained three puppies, who arrive when they're two months old and stay until 18 months old. Denis's primary job is to expose them "to every situation they could possibly be exposed to as a seeing eye dog," he says. "I take them to the mall, the bank, restaurants, church (he and a puppy are frequently at Grace), subways, trains, buses...everything but July 4th fireworks." Then after a year and a half, they return the puppies to the program. "I cry every time," says Pam.

As well as helping train the puppies, Pam is enjoying a well-deserved retirement from being Communications Program Assistant at Cary Institute for 20 years. But her days have been far from slow. "We moved my mother here from Florida, then right after that was the Grace golf tournament, then the cookie and crafts sale, and then the holidays. But I finally finished a prayer shawl I've been working on for two years and I'm learning to play the piano."

One of the true pillars of Grace, Pam has taught Godly Play, been a Eucharistic Minister and a Vestry member, and has served on the Grace Year Fellows Advisory Board and the Fundraising committee. With her partner in crime, Lynda Boissey, she runs the annual golf tournament and cookie and craft sale, and helps with the church website.

Alex, 28, was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan and has been the audio/video technician for Grace for the past two years throughout the pandemic. Scott, 26, was born in Kirov, Russia and is a professional firefighter and EMT with the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department. Both boys were confirmed at Grace, were acolytes, were active in the youth group, served at The Lunch Box, and participated in many Christmas pageants and Sunday youth sermons.

If there were more people in this world like the Freemans, what a wonderful world it would be.

THE JOURNEY OF FAITH: A LENTEN COURSE FOR INQUIRERS AND THOSE WHO WISH TO DEEPEN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES



Led by Rev. Alison Quin, Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins and Adelle Dennis

Join us as we embark on a 5-session course on the Gospel, the Episcopal Church and the spiritual life.

Is this course for you? YES!

- If you are a newcomer to Grace Church, or to Christianity, or if you are seeking an opportunity to explore faith and spirituality at a deeper level.
- If you are preparing for Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church.
- If you would like to reaffirm your commitment to the Episcopal Church.

All sessions will meet on Wednesdays from 6-8pm in the rectory
March 9, 16, 23, 30
April 6
May 1

Sign up by calling the church office at (845) 677-3064 or emailing office@gracemillbrook.org

PALM SATURDAY PRAYER WALK FOR CHILDREN

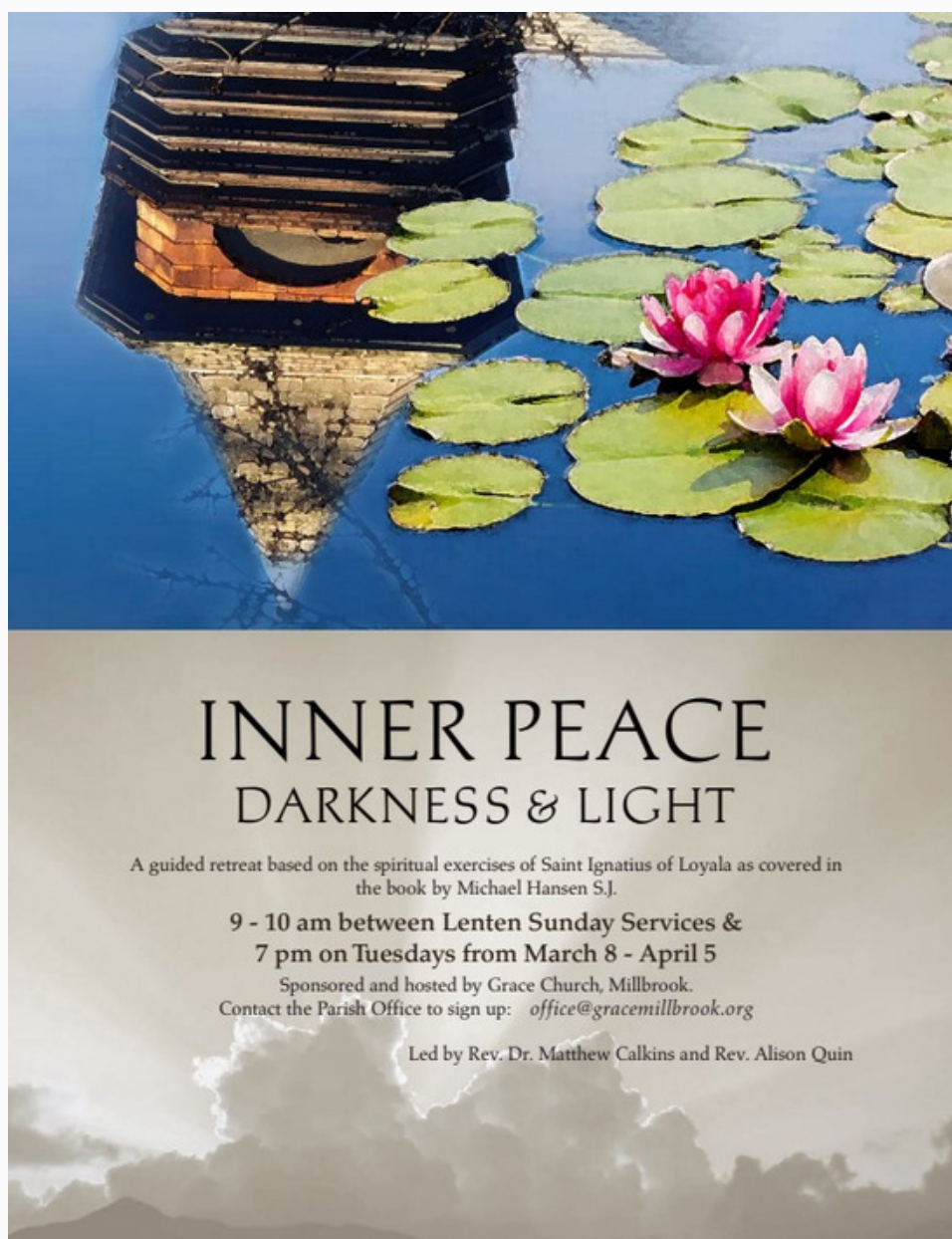


Children of all ages are invited to experience the events of Holy Week and Easter through an interactive storytelling event led by Rev. Alison Quin on Palm Saturday, April 9th from 10-12. They will hear the story of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, his arrest and crucifixion, his death, and the awesome Good News of his Resurrection. In addition to the Prayer Walk, we will also color Easter eggs, plant flowers and decorate Easter cookies.

There is no charge for this event, but an offering of non-perishable food for La Mesa food pantry would be appreciated. All ages are welcome and we ask that 4- and 5-year-olds are accompanied by a parent. Older children, teenagers and adults are invited to help, as well as participate.

To sign up, please call the church office at (845) 677-3064 or email office@gracemillbrook.org.

LENTEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT



MILLBROOK COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR



Since its beginning in 2006, Millbrook Community Preschool at Grace Church has been a nurturing place of joyous discovery and respect for its students and their families. I joined the preschool team in 2008 as a teacher, and since the fall of 2017, have been proud to serve as its Director. I was fortunate to have a very strong foundation laid before me by the two previous directors, Diane Jackson Schnoor and Maureen Sarma. Now, I am passing the mantle to my successor, Nicole Anderson.

Nicole will begin her duties at the end of June and is enthusiastic about this next phase in her career as an early childhood educator. A life-long resident of Millbrook,

Nicole has been teaching preschool at Millbrook Early Childhood Education Center for the past eight years, where she has also served as assistant to its two directors. She is dedicated to continuing her education in early childhood and childcare, and has a long history of administrative experience in her family's manufacturing business. She is also a newly appointed board member of the Millbrook Library.

Please join me in welcoming Nicole as she builds upon the wonderful foundation of MCP!

Sincerely,
Deborah Coconis
Outgoing Director, Millbrook Community Preschool

GIO HIRES NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND REENERGIZES EPIC



In spite of the extremely disruptive effects of the pandemic, Grace Immigrant Outreach (GIO) and EPIC are confidently striding into the future with solid strategies, some new personnel, and an abundance of faith.

Mark Clizbe, former history teacher and Department Chair at The Millbrook School, was recently hired as GIO's new Program Director. Part of his duties will be to oversee EPIC (Engaging People in Community), which includes creating a sustainable curriculum and finding ways for EPIC to keep operating over the summers as well as during the school year. Grace Year Fellow Adelle Dennis is

assisting Mark in these efforts, and the two of them are in the process of sitting down with current and past EPIC members to discern which parts of the program they want to keep and which they want to be different. "It's really important that the kids are the driving force in EPIC," says Mark. "It's about them, it's for them, and it's by them."

Future plans include hiring a program coordinator for EPIC to create a layer of leadership while still maintaining the bottom-up ethos of the program. This person will be in charge of the day-to-day operation of EPIC, facilitating Friday evening meetings, person-to-person interaction with the kids, and overseeing the Grace Year Fellows' involvement.

Mark's other major endeavor with GIO has been the creation of a new Academic Mentoring Program which is just now getting up and running. Operating hand-in-hand with EPIC, Mark will provide academic advising, college counseling and long-term guidance for local immigrant students and their families, centered around navigating high school, getting into college, and pursuing a productive life afterward. Mark's expectation is that many of the kids in EPIC will become academic clients and vice versa: when he finds kids to join EPIC, he will encourage them to join the academic mentoring program.

Another organization that has the potential to play a major role within the local immigrant population is the Northeast Community Center. As Mark meets kids through EPIC and the academic program and learns about their strengths and goals, he can hopefully steer them to NCC's school-to-work program. "Not all kids have to go to college to have successful jobs and careers. There are other resources out there, and GIO and EPIC can help connect kids to these for a successful future."

Working closely with Mark is GIO's tireless Executive Director, Evelyn Garzetta, who has a hand in all aspects of Grace Church's immigrant-focused initiatives. As Evelyn wholeheartedly reports, "there is a bigger power that gives us the strength, the knowledge, and the fortitude to start these programs and see them through. Every day I see something amazing happening and say, there's the Holy Spirit again!"



INTERFAITH BLESSING OF OUR SACRED PLACES AT INNISFREE GARDEN MAY 15TH

Sunday May 15th at noon, join leaders and members of various faiths including Christian, Buddhist and Jewish for a spring celebration of our beautiful Earth and our responsibility as people of faith to protect and preserve it. The free event includes music, readings and a blessing of fields and seeds. Feel free to bring your own seeds to be blessed! Walking is required. For general information, call 845-677-3064.

SPANISH SERVICES

Servicios mensuales en Español
pimer Miércoles de cada mes
a las 6:00pm

(Monthly services in Spanish
the first Wednesday of every
month at 6:00pm)



Marzo 2
Abril 6
Mayo 4
Junio 1
Julio 6
Agosto 3

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



I am delighted to be directing the choir on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of every month. The choir has mainly been singing the different riches of the hymnal. The S- section of the hymnal refers to the service music that is sung each week. It is organized by services: Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Eucharist I, Eucharist II, and other services. Grace Church normally worships on Sundays using the Eucharist II liturgy. On the Sundays that I am at Grace, we always sing Gloria, Sanctus, and the Fraction Anthem. Every season the altar linens and the clergy vestments change color. It is recommended and practiced in most Episcopal churches that the service music changes as well.

This Epiphany season, we sang settings by William Mathias. A number of his creations were composed expressly for royal occasions, and Queen Elizabeth II made him a Commander of the British Empire in 1985. His career reached a high point, and a worldwide audience, in 1981 when he composed the anthem performed at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

During the penitential season of Lent, Gloria is replaced with Kyrie, which means *Lord have mercy*. We will be using the setting from The German Mass by Franz Peter Schubert, the Austrian composer of the late Classical period (shortened and translated into English by Richard Proulx.). We will also sing the Sanctus from Schubert's Mass, which translates to *Holy, Holy Lord*.

The choir is starting to prepare music for Holy Week and Easter. If you would like to join us, please stay after church on the second, third and fourth Sundays and rehearse with us for an hour.

Note'bly,
Suzanne

BISHOP'S VISIT MAY 1ST



The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool will be with us Sunday May 1st for a visitation when she will perform the Rites of Episcopal Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation. On that Sunday there will be only one service at 10:00.



- Per NYS guidelines, masks are encouraged for all — and required for those unvaccinated — during in-person services.
- Coffee Hour resumed Sunday, February 27th after both services.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Interfaith Blessing of our Sacred Places at Innisfree Garden, Sunday May 15th at 12 noon.

Grace Church
3328 Franklin Ave.
Millbrook, NY 12545

