

CHRISTMAS 2022

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

GRACE NOTES

NEWS IN AND AROUND THE GRACE CHURCH COMMUNITY

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FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

And so it was that the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." —Luke 2: 6-12

ADVENT: A TIME TO PREPARE THE WAY

BY THE REV. ALISON QUIN

We are drawing close to Advent — it begins on Sunday, November 27th. In the northern hemisphere, Advent coincides with the approach of winter. The days are shorter, the leaves have fallen, nature grows quieter as plants and animals prepare for the cold season. We as Christians are invited to slow down and take some quiet time during this season as well. Advent is a time of prayer and reflection and waiting in patient expectation. We wait for the birth of Christ, not only long ago in Bethlehem, but now, in our hearts and in the world. The world cries out in longing for redemption to be complete — the redemption that began with the incarnation and was further revealed in the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Advent is a time for the renewal of hope, through spending time with God and reflecting on God's promises — the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, the promise of peace, and the promise of God's presence with us to the end of the age.

It is a struggle for most of us to observe Advent. Taking time for quiet prayer and reflection is counter to the culture of rushing around to make sure that all is in place for the perfect Christmas. I am reminding myself that Christmas is already perfect because our God took on flesh and came into the world out of love for each of us. The rest is details, and they will sort themselves out.

Here at Grace, we are offering the short evening service of compline on Monday nights during Advent at 8pm to give us all a chance to slow down, quiet our hearts, and listen for the voice of love speaking in our hearts. Join us if you can, and may this Advent be a blessed time for you.

Many thanks for the privilege of walking with you during Matt's sabbatical. May he return to us refreshed and renewed for the coming year.

With love and prayers,
Alison

ADVENT HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27: ADVENT 1

8:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon
10:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon and music

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

8:00 Compline led by Rev. Alison Quin

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

4:00 Help decorate the Grace Church parade float
6:00 Parade of Lights, Millbrook

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

10:00-2:00 St. Nicholas Bazaar: Fine Local Crafts and Holiday Cookie Sale

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4: ADVENT 2

8:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon
9:00 Forum with Fr Matt re: his sabbatical
10:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon and music

MONDAY DECEMBER 5

8:00 Compline led by Rev. Alison Quin

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11: ADVENT 3

8:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon
9:00 Forum with Fr Matt re: his sabbatical
10:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon and music
5:00 Virgin of Guadalupe Spanish service followed by dinner

MONDAY DECEMBER 12

8:00 Compline led by Rev. Alison Quin

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18: ADVENT 4

8:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon
10:00 Holy Eucharist with sermon and music
4:00 Community Pageant with live animals

MONDAY DECEMBER 19

8:00 Compline led by Rev. Alison Quin

HOME AND HOSPITALITY

On a beautiful fall afternoon recently, Zoe and I hiked up a carpet of fallen oak leaves to the top of a hill overlooking the Hudson Valley. I took a deep breath, thanked God, and thought to myself, It is good to be home. For me, this has also been a journey from and back home to Grace Church Millbrook, refreshed and renewed by a sabbatical journey and time for reflection. Thanks to a Lilly Foundation grant and the hard work and good wishes of you all at Grace, Mary and I were able to travel for two months around the world, mostly in the Far East, visiting Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and Singapore. We had a wonderful time (mostly) and I can't thank you all enough for the time and opportunity. I will be giving a series of talks on our travels on Sundays in December — and I have previously written short accounts along the way — so with this note I would like simply to tell a few stories.

On hospitality to strangers, I could tell many stories, for we found a gracious welcome in every country. In Japan we visited the small island of Miyajima near the city of Hiroshima. There is a famous temple and shrine there, as well as streets filled with shops selling souvenirs, food and the famous local green tea. We passed one such shop selling many kinds of paper and writing utensils — which had been doing so for generations. It also sold paper for shoji screens, and Mary and I mentioned to the owner that we have a project back home involving making sliding doors with shoji screens. Well, that was enough for the owner and his adult daughter to invite us to look over their goods more closely, talk about sizes and types, and before making a decision, have a cup of tea. We were ushered upstairs to a room covered with tatami mats, a small stove and utensils in one corner, a niche with a scroll and flower arrangement in another, and shoji screen windows open to the breeze. We sat while the young woman performed the classic Japanese tea ceremony with ground matcha tea carefully whisked into boiling water. She handed us simple but elegant stoneware bowls of tea and somewhat to my surprise (having previously tasted bitter green tea at such a ceremony) it was delicious. While we sipped our tea, she went to an adjoining room and played a song on a three stringed Japanese lute-like instrument. Our tour guide was amazed at this offering — this was not expected or arranged. But it was certainly a gift, a moment of grace.

Folks in Korea tend to be a bit more gruff than the Japanese, just as the food is more spicy, but the hospitality was still abundant. We found ourselves one night at Hahoe, a traditional village outside the small city of Andong. An annual mask dance festival was in process and one of the culminating events was a fireworks display. Ropes had been strung to the tops of cliffs across the river, and on the ropes hung strings of knotted paper. When darkness came, all went down to the shore to watch as the paper strings were lit and the ropes pulled across the river making sheets of falling sparks along the way. It was quite lovely—and dramatic when bonfire logs were rolled off the top of the cliffs and crashed on the rocks below. When it was over we walked back to where we had been told a special bus was coming but when it came, there were no seats left so we found a tight spot to stand. A middle aged man grabbed me by the wrist and pulled me over to the seat he had vacated, insisting I sit (did I look that old?). Next to him an old woman gestured to Mary, "Come, sit on my lap!" (Mary thanked her but preferred standing.)

Our son Eli joined us for a week in Vietnam — which was wonderful — and we had a great time exploring that dynamic developing country. After leaving Hanoi we flew to the old capital of Hue and after a couple of days took the train from there to Da Nang, the nearest rail station to our eventual destination in Hoi An. This was no high speed rail, as in Japan or Korea. This was the local route, and it left once a day at 11 out of an old station in a gritty part of town. We were standing on the platform, feeling a bit unsettled when a young man struck up a conversation. He was an immigrant from Vietnam to the US returning for a family event. He saw we were a bit nervous and was kind enough to assure us we were on the right platform for the right car, filling us in on the best way to get a cab in Da Nang and a good tailor in Hoi An if we wanted a custom suit made. The train came and we never saw him again, but we followed his advice and both Eli and I now have nice new custom-tailored suits.

I could go on — and will in my talks December 3 and 11 — about the beauty of natural wonders and architectural marvels that we were so fortunate to visit. We are home now and I look forward to resuming my work as a priest and pastor. Mary and I will treasure the memories of this trip for the rest of our lives. And I will remember that we all depend on the kindness of strangers, and should make haste to love, for time and life are too short for anything else.

See you in Advent!
Matt+

GOLF TOURNAMENT AND GALA NETTED \$16,200!



On August 15, we held our 15th Annual Grace Golf Tournament and Gala Dinner/Auction, which raised \$16,200 (an increase over last year). We had a beautiful sunny day at Quaker Hill Country Club (a new venue for us) and everyone had a good time. Our honorees John Byron and Innisfree Garden (Kate Kerin) graciously received the accolades they so richly deserve, and our family of parishioners gathered in thankfulness and with grace. Thank you everyone for making this event a great success!!! —Pam Freeman

FALL FESTIVAL



On a gorgeous Saturday last month, we held our second annual Grace Fall Festival. Members of the parish, both new and long-standing, chipped in to make it a remarkable success! We had a steady stream of families and judging from the smiles, everyone had a great time. I genuinely thank each and every person who contributed to this event. —Amanda Williams

GIO IS NOW NEDIS

In 2005, Grace Latino/Immigrant Outreach (GIO) was founded at Grace Church by Rev. Doug Fisher (now Bishop of Western Massachusetts), Walter Cadette, Jack Banning and the parishioners of Grace Church. Today, we have been an integral part of the Northeast Dutchess community for almost two decades, serving the rural towns of Amenia, Dover Plains, Millbrook, Millerton, Pine Plains and Stanfordville. Having recently changed our name to Northeast Dutchess Immigrant Services (NEDIS), we remain the light of the future for all immigrants. —Evelyn Garzetta

COMPLINE DURING ADVENT

Rev. Alison Quin will offer Advent Compline services on Monday evenings in Advent: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19. All services are at 8pm in the church. The services will feature quiet prayer by candlelight to help us slow down and prepare to celebrate the incarnation as we look forward to “the fullness of time, when God will bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.” (Ephesians 1:10). Rev. Alison invites us to come, sit, quiet our minds and our hearts, and embrace God’s great gift of Jesus, our blessed Savior.



ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR AND HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE



It's that time of year again!! Join us Saturday, December 10th from 10am-2pm for the St. Nicholas Bazaar at Grace Church. The Bazaar has grown in popularity each year and at this year's event, artisans will showcase their crafts throughout the upper and lower levels of the Parish Hall. Shop your favorite crafts, including candles, beaded and crystal jewelry, soaps, local wool yarn and bird houses. New additions this year: hand-thrown pottery, hand-woven baskets and shawls, 3-D felted wool sculptures and paintings, Matryoshka nesting dolls, and embroidered bags. You are sure to find something special for everyone on your list this Christmas!

And for your holiday entertaining (and your own sweet tooth), we will have a wide assortment of homemade Christmas cookies and candies from the traditional to the decadent, all lovingly made by the bakers of Grace Church. Cookies are \$14 per pound and may be pre-ordered by calling Lynda at 845-677-5174 or purchased in person at the Bazaar. We will also have a food truck available for snacks and lunch. Questions? Call Lynda Boissey at 845-677-5174 or Pam Freeman at 845-341-7348. This is a major fundraiser for Grace Church so we hope you will join us for this festive, much-beloved event!

SILVER CROSS JEWELRY



Sterling silver crosses have been designed especially for Grace Church and are a replica of the cross placed atop the church bell tower, steeple and church entrance. Medium and small sizes will be offered @ \$155 and \$135, and both include sterling silver chains. You may order by completing the order form found in the back of the church or by calling the church office at (845) 677-3064. Samples are available in the church office and at coffee hour. NOTE: We will be placing the order on November 28th for Christmas delivery so order now! The crosses are a fundraiser for Grace Church and are purchased for us by Joyce Heaton Jewelers of Millbrook.

RESURRECTION WINDOW GREETING CARDS



Greeting cards featuring the Grace Church resurrection window are now available for purchase! The stunning four-panel stained glass window pioneered by John LaFarge and Louis C. Tiffany is featured on the front, and the history of the window is printed on the back. The inside is blank. The 5x7 cards are printed on fine silk cover paper and are packaged in groups of ten, complete with envelopes. Packages of ten are \$30, single cards are \$3.25, and both can be purchased at coffee hour or by calling the church office at (845) 677-3064. Limited supply so get yours now! (Perfect for Christmas!)

SPANISH SERVICE DEC 11

Please join us Sunday December 11th at 5pm for a special Spanish service when we will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. Dinner following the service in the Parish House.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



WELCOME GRACE YEAR FELLOWS



(L to R) Kara-Lyn Moran, Ben York, Coco de Marneffe, Rachael Langston



(L to R) Rachael Langston, Kara-Lyn Moran, Rev. Alison Quin, Ben York, Coco de Marneffe

I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings. —William Sloane Coffin

We are thrilled to introduce our fifth cohort of Grace Year fellows! Caroline de Marneffe (Coco), Rachael Langston, Kara-Lyn Moran and Ben York arrived in late August and have settled in at the vicarage. They have been cooking up a storm, including vegan birthday cake and many other veggie dishes. Some highlights of our first few weeks include the opening retreat at Linwood Spiritual Center, a visit to Innisfree Gardens, being welcomed and fed by Grace parishioners, Community Day in Millbrook, and game night with Kristin Perkins, a former fellow who joins the Grace Year staff as assistant program director.

The fellows have started their service work at Dutchess Land Conservancy, Grace Immigrant Outreach, Seasoned Gives and Food of Life Pantry and Community Garden. Many thanks to our partners for offering these opportunities to serve and grow. And many thanks to our fellows for joining Grace Year! We are looking forward to an amazing year with you!

TWO FELLOWS ATTENDED INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry named 18 delegates — selected from among respondents to a churchwide call — to represent the presiding bishop's office at the 27th session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP27. It was held November 6-18 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and two of our Grace Fellows, Coco de Marneffe (attended in person) and Kara-Lyn Moran (attended virtually), were chosen to participate. We're so proud of both of them!



Coco de Marneffe at COP27

From Coco:

I am honored to be attending and so grateful for the support of the Grace Church community and the Episcopal Service Corps. I am excited to bring back what I learn from this global conference to my Millbrook and ESC community.

From Kara:

As a young person, I feel the weight of climate change everyday, knowing all of our futures are in jeopardy with rising temperatures. Being chosen to be part of the Episcopal Church's delegation to COP27 gave me the chance to directly advocate for a better future for us all. It was wonderful to see recognition of the role youth play now and in the future, as we see how important it is to take action on climate issues.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



- Christmas Eve: 5:00pm Family Service
- Christmas Eve: 8:45pm with Special Music
- Christmas Day: 10:00am Jesus is born!

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