

Grace Notes

THE NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

VOLUME XII, NO. 1

The Interim Rector's Message . . .

Dear Friends,

After the wonderful celebrations of Christmas, we now enjoy one of the longer Epiphany seasons, since the season of Lent is so late this year (Ash Wednesday is not until March 9). With the full complement of Sundays in Epiphany, we are invited to reflect on the meaning of the “Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles,” the formal name of the Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated every year on January 6. The Gentiles, in this case, are the Magi, or Wise Men, the astrologers from the East who followed Jesus’ natal star to his crib in Bethlehem. In this case, “Gentiles” is synonymous with “outsiders,” or “foreigners,” and these seers came from a distant land, captivated by the sign of the star, convinced of the tremendous significance of the event to which it led. The star was explanation to them in and of itself, and without further interpretation or help from a jealous Herod and his advisors, fell down in worship upon reaching the object of their search. Then they opened their gifts which embodied the significance of this Life: gold, to honor a king; frankincense, the sign of divinity, and myrrh, a burial spice.

The account of the Wise Men in Matthew begins the first in a series of “showings” of Christ to the world, and each Sunday in the Epiphany season reveals another aspect of his identity and purpose, interpreted by the different accounts in all four Gospels used for the three different lectionary cycles. That being said, perhaps the most memorable and riveting instance of the meaning

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of his coming is found in the Gospel of Luke, read in Year C, when Jesus went to the synagogue in Galilee and taking the scroll handed to him, read from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:14-19)

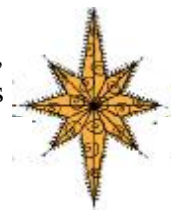
I am always in thrall when this Gospel is read, because you can almost feel the electricity in the room when he pronounced the fulfillment of the prophecy. In no uncertain terms, just as the Magi intuited, this is no ordinary life – it will change the world. What stands out to me particularly is that he announced his mission right from the start, and there isn’t one passage in the Gospels from that point on about him where he is not, in one form or another, fulfilling his purpose.

As followers of Christ, we can do no less than to discern our purpose as His church, and then get about the business to which we are called, inexorably linked to his declaration in the synagogue. In what ways, unique to our place and time, are we called and commissioned to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor? We will gather together as a church family for the Summit on March 6, and using the information gathered at the Pre-Summit meetings, will discern and define our mission. Once that is accomplished, different committees and ministry groupings will meet to set goals, directing their activities toward the fulfilling of our purpose. This process will encourage more participation, partnership and dedication to our life together as God’s people, as well as guide the search process to find the person with the right skills, experience, and talent to be a resource for the congregation to accomplish its mission. During the interim time, we have been moving along “doing” church as we are accustomed, however, the next step is put some focus to our activities, working toward the same goals.

If you have not attended a Pre-Summit meeting, I strongly urge you to take advantage of the several opportunities left before the Summit (Sun., Feb 13 at 11:45 a.m. and another date will be announced shortly), so that your ideas and aspirations can be incorporated into the deliberations we will share together on March 6. And remember, the Summit is not the end of the process, but the beginning, and will take all of our energy and efforts to bring our work to fruition in the coming months and years.

May we all find the light of the Star of Bethlehem to be our guide, and seek the ways in which we can fall down and worship, sharing our gifts with Christ and the world.

Faithfully yours,
Emily +



Vestry Briefs . . . (from Nov. 18) (Dec mtg cancelled due to road conditions)

- Finance Reports: Our 2010 budget deficit is \$2,000 under projected deficit figure. The money for the chimney repair will be repaid to the Contingency Funds by the cemetery funds. Vestry approved increasing Grace's support to the diocese to \$14,000 for 2011. Bruce Phillips presented the two-year audit reports. Recommendation from auditor was to have two signatures for all checks. Vestry agreed to extend a call for an asst. treasurer to work with Bruce and to be second signature on checks. The 2011 Budget was distributed for vestry review for the Dec. meeting. Stewardship Campaign results given by Fred Tennille and Paul Miles; 70% of pledge cards returned, pledges have increased an avg. of about 13%. The Finance Committee will be looking for a new chairperson.
- Community Growth/Commission Reports: The vestry will develop a short term vision/mission statement so that some of the activities suggested from the vestry retreat will have a foundation. Immediate activities include a vestry walk-through on Dec. 12 at 11:45 a.m. There are also plans for greeters' and ushers' meetings.
- Vestry voted to table discussions on by-law reviews until a future time.
- Sr. Warden Tom Marshall shared that on Jan. 22, five to six people from each of the Brandywine Parishes will meet for a presentation and discussion on how they can work together for the benefit of all. Reps from other Delaware churches that have been successful in sharing ministries will also present.
- Our 2011 Diocesan convention delegates are: Fred Tennille and Sandy Tonjes, along with alternates Tom Marshall and Richard Powell.
- Wheeled, upholstered desk chairs have been donated by Kaplan for use in the Ivy Room. The rectory has been rented for a one year lease at \$1,900 per month. The sound system for the parish is now complete. The property committee is currently reviewing pricing for re-roofing the chapel. The wardens will draw up a document about procedures to be used by all commissions for the vestry to review. For expenses not covered in commission's/committee's budget line, the Vestry needs the name of the contractor/business & the cost so that the information can be added to the minutes of the monthly vestry meeting, providing a tracking system that could be helpful in the future.



2010 Year End Contribution Statements went out the week of Jan. 17th. If you made a formal pledge in 2010, or gave over \$100 worth of donations that year, you should receive a printed statement. When you receive it, please look it over for accuracy and notify Linda Owens (478-9533) of any discrepancies.

Following the Annual Mtg., Linda will begin working on a 2011 Parish Directory. Please **NOTIFY THE OFFICE ASAP of any updates in mailing address, phone, or EMAIL.**



Outreach Commission. . . .

Ditty Boxes Results

Many thanks to all who contributed to the ditty box collection. Once again, we created and wrapped 100 boxes for the Seaman's Center of Delaware. Joan Lyons, Exec. Director, expressed her appreciation for Grace's continuing effort to make sure that there were enough to boxes to hand out to sailors over the holidays and early January. In addition to the boxes, there were 30+ hats and scarves also wrapped and presented. Julie Simone is heading up a trip to the Center/Port to view the work being done there and possibly see ships in port. Due to heavy security, arrangements must be made way in advance. If you are interested in touring, please let Julie know as soon as possible.



Ronald McDonald House of Delaware

The staff at the Ronald McDonald House expressed their gratitude for all the items collected during the Angel Tree collection as part of our "Christmas in July" effort this summer. Many needed items from their wish list were contributed and delivered to the House for the use of the many families who stay there. Plans are underway to arrange a dinner provided/served by Grace at the House during 2011 to become more familiar with the wonderful work being done to aid families dealing with children's illnesses.



Food Ingathering

Due to the economic times we live in, the Food Pantry at the Claymont Community Center is running low often during these cold months. Thanks to all who contributed to the Harvest Ingathering in November, as many bags of nonperishable groceries were collected and delivered to the Pantry by Jim Fagley. We will plan to have two more collections in the winter/spring. The first will be on Sunday, **March 13**; and the second will be Sunday, **May 29**. More information to be provided on these major collections. So watch the grocery circulars for good deals on non-perishable food items! REMINDER: *Food baskets are located in the church and donations are accepted at any time, which are then taken to the Pantry. Bring a can/box and drop it in on the way to Communion as we give thanks for all that we have received.*



Food Drive
for Hunger





Dear God,
My prayer for 2011 is for a
FAT bank account & a Thin
body. Please don't mix
these up like you did last
year.
Amen.



Sunday, Feb. 6

One Combined Service at **9:30 AM** in main church followed by . . .

Annual Meeting at **10:30 AM**; potluck lunch after the meeting.

2011 Vestry Candidates:



Beth Beck



Cathy Diamond



Felix Fernandez



Alan Gill

Taylor Trust Fund Candidate:



Don Claus

Many Thanks to our Outgoing Vestry Members:

Tom Marshall, Pat Diamond, John Haley and Fred Tennille

Altar Guild Thank Yous

Christmas 2010 has come and gone and we have celebrated the 50th anniversary of our first Christmas Eve service in the Church. As always our Church was beautifully decorated and we wish to recognize with special thanks the following:

- To Bill Corbishly for the lovely Christmas tree that stood in the garden and was strung with gleaming white lights by Irv Hollingsworth.
- The red and gold bows on the wreaths were crafted by Gail Haley.
- To those who climbed ladders to hang the Alleluia banners and Crismons we thank Dallas Winslow and Paul Miles.
- To our members and other volunteers: We thank Anne Hollingsworth, Aline and Andrew Holler, Carol Mazzenga, Lillian and Noah Miles, Edie Realey, Pat Saraga who lovingly polished silver and brass, Joan Schoenleber, Nancy Simpkins, Julie Simone and Carrie, Heather and Elena Fayda.

Without this willing help the Church would not have looked so beautiful for our three Christmas services. Our apologies to anyone we may have missed in sending thanks. Till Christmas 2011 our thanks to one and all.

Sarah Long and Fran Allmond,
Altar Guild, Co-chairs



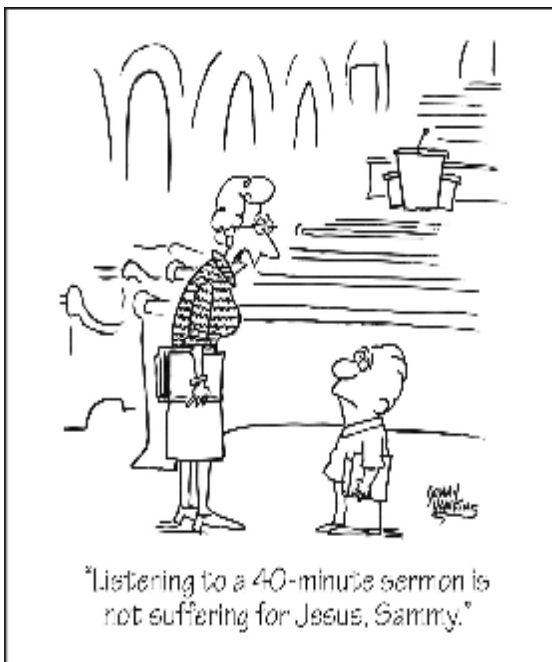
We would like to thank everyone at this time for all their cards, words & sympathy in our recent family tragedy. Once again, we've witnessed the outpouring of Grace Church's concern & love shining through the dark clouds when it's so deeply needed. It's such a comfort to know that our circle of friends here at Grace are always there for the support that they so generously give at difficult times such as this.

John & Janet Poplos & family

Adult Sunday Study Opportunity
 Starting Sun., Jan. 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the Memorial Room we will offer *Living Islam: Beauty, Truth, Compassion*. There will be five sessions in this adult study series, based on Krista Tippett's NPR radio program *Speaking of Faith*. You are invited to attend *any one or all of these* sessions to dive into the rich tradition/cultural fabric of Islam, including what it means to be Muslim in modern America. Hear Muslim women offer their perspective on their traditions/roles, examine effect of 9/11 on the West's view of Islam, and understand the Islamic holiday of Ramadan.

Facilitators:

Paula Hartzell, Dir. of Interfaith Resource Center, and Brenda Trageser



Now that the holidays are over, we can think about other things, like Book Club. We are setting the date for **Sunday, Feb.13, 12:45 at Grace Place** with a light pot-luck lunch. Book selection is *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. It is available in paperback and should be in both Barnes & Nobles and Borders, also available online through Amazon and for Kindle.



Remember whether you get the book read or not, we still enjoy your company. And, if you know of anyone else interest, pass the information along.

Book synopsis from *Publishers Weekly*:

Kingsolver's ambitious new novel, her first after the *The Poisonwood Bible*, focuses on Harrison William Shepherd, the product of a divorced American father & Mexican mother. After getting kicked out of his Amer. military academy, Harrison spends his formative years in Mexico in the 1930s in the household of Diego Rivera; his wife, Frida Kahlo; and their houseguest, Leon Trotsky, who is hiding from Soviet assassins. After Trotsky is assassinated, Harrison returns to the U.S., where he becomes an author of historical potboilers and is later investigated as a possible subversive. Narrated in the form of letters, diary entries & news clippings, the novel takes a while to get going, but once it does, it achieves a rare dramatic power that reaches its emotional peak when Harrison wittily/eloquently defends himself before the House Un-American Activities Committee (on the panel is a young Dick Nixon). Kingsolver masterfully resurrects a dark period in American history with the assured hand of a true literary artist.

Holiday Craft Show Results

The 2010 Holiday Craft Show was held on Saturday, Nov. 20th with a great turn out. We rented tables to six other diversified crafters who were very pleased with their sales and asked to come back next year. Our parishioners, who ran the snack bar, raffle tables and bake tables, did an outstanding job. We condensed our crafts down to the Memorial Room and opened it every Sunday for four weeks. Our last big sale was at the concert on Saturday evening, December 18th. We cleaned up the following Sunday with our last few sales.



One of our Guest Crafters



A. Hollingsworth's Handcrafted Doll Clothes



Felix Fernandez, Gail Haley, Irv Hollingsworth



Our Bake Table manned by C. Mazzenga, S. Silberzahn, C. Diamond

Thank you to everyone who helped us make the 2010 Holiday Craft Show such a success, especially those who do not have a vested interest in Grace Church, but donated many beautiful items because they believed in our cause. We hope more parishioners are willing to jump on board for next year, but we need more help & ideas early on.

We are delighted to report that we netted **\$3,244.23**. If a handful of people could do this, just think what the whole church could accomplish. Please join us next year.

Gail Haley & Anne Hollingsworth



Now Hear This!

Pre-Summit Meetings Continue

Many from the congregation have attended the meeting to prepare for the parish “Summit,” which will take place on Sunday, March 6, 2011. Through the format of one-on-one interviews and small group conversations, we are collecting information to be presented at the Summit to craft a purpose statement, and to articulate our values and vision as we prepare for the search process to find a new rector. Each parishioner is asked to attend ONE of the Pre-Summit meetings.



The next scheduled Pre-Summit Meeting is Sunday, Feb. 13 at 11:45 a.m. Lunch will be provided. There is also at least one other pre-summit being planned before the March 6th Summit. Please watch for bulletin and email updates with that scheduling info.



Dear Parishioners,

We have two exciting events coming up in the near future: the Annual Meeting on Sun., Feb. 6 and the Summit Meeting on Sun., March 6. I hope that you will make a point of being at both events and participate in the exciting community that is Grace Church.

Be sure to attend one of the final Pre-Summit meetings, if you haven't already. Your thoughts and hopes for the future are important to be heard and included. We are especially anxious to hear from our newest members and younger members of the community. This will help us to define our mission and allow us to match up with an excellent candidate during our upcoming search. Only by sharing these desires can we know who we want to be collectively. Besides the process is fun!

This will be my last letter as Senior Warden and I appreciate all the support I have been given over the past 3 years. Please support your new leadership just as fully. Important decisions need to be made in the coming months and the Wardens, Vestry and Emily will need your prayers and support. It is through unity, not division that we will be successful in our call.

Peace and Blessings,
Tom Marshall, Senior Warden

*From the
Sr. Warden*



Let's play B-I-N-G-O!



Benefit Bingo

Sun., Jan. 30 at 2:00 pm

Parish Hall, Grace Church

proceeds benefit the

Marie M. Marshall Fund

\$20/participant (16 games)

and before Bingo join us for

Soup and Sandwich Lunch

Sun., Jan. 30 begins at 12:30 pm

Parish Hall, Grace Church

\$10/person

Soup

Sandwich

Beverage & Dessert



Special Keynote Speaker at Diocesan Convention

All members of the Diocese of Delaware are invited to hear **keynote speaker Brian McLaren at the 226th Diocesan Convention** held at the Sheraton Dover Hotel, 11570 North Dupont Highway, Friday, Feb. 25, and Saturday, Feb. 26. He is a nationally renowned author, speaker, pastor, and networker among innovative Christian leaders and thinkers. He has also been a frequent guest on television, radio, and news media programs, having appeared on *Larry King Live*, *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, and *Nightline*. He spoke at the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and the 2008 Lambeth Conference.



He will begin his time with us with an address at the Friday night dinner on “The Episcopal Moment,” reflecting how, in this time of transition and opportunity in the Episcopal Church, we are uniquely situated to draw from our past to play a vital role in the future. Brian will share five strengths Episcopalians share, along with five challenges Episcopalians can overcome to seize the moment. On Saturday morning Brian will present another plenary session on “How your Church Can Seize the Moment.” He will present practical and proven steps Episcopal congregations can take to grow in vitality, size, and impact in the years ahead. Small group session will follow and provide time to dialogue about these ideas and bring back the ones congregations can start putting into practice immediately.

To sign up for this event, please contact Carmel Stephano at the Bishop’s office (656-5441, or CStephano@DioceseofDelaware.net) or by registering on the diocesan website, www.DioceseofDelaware.net. If you come for dinner Friday night, the cost is \$45, which includes hors d’oeuvres and a buffet dinner. You do not need to sign up for the dinner to hear him speak, which would begin at 6:30 p.m. You can attend the Saturday morning session (at 9:15 a.m.) without cost, and if you decide to stay for lunch the cost is \$15. Carpooling from Grace Church to this event would be a great way to share this event together. If you sign up at the Diocese, please call the church office to let us know, so that we can work to get the carpools organized. This is a wonderful and rare opportunity to hear from such an important national figure, and it is hoped as many from Grace can attend as possible!





OPEN 2011 Altar Flower Dates:

May 29, June 19, July 3—10—24—31, Aug. 14—21—28, Sept. 4, Oct 2—16—23, Nov. 27, Dec 4—11. Cost: \$35/arrangement. Contact Linda in the office to check on other dates and to reserve your dates.

Also, the office is looking for **2011 sponsors of the printing of the Sunday bulletin.** These tax-deductible donations help to pay for the color used (bulletin covers) and for the lesson inserts. Cost is

\$55/month and your donation may be acknowledged in the bulletin or left anonymous. Contact Linda in the office if you can help!



CALENDAR DATES

- Sun, Jan. 30, regular 8:30 & 10:30 services in the chapel
- Sun., Jan. 30, **Adult Study: Living Islam**, 9:30 AM in Memorial Room (thru Feb. 27)
- Sun., Jan. 30, **Soup & Sandwich Lunch**, 12:30 PM (\$10/person)
- Sun., Jan. 30, **Benefit Bingo** for Marshall Fund, 2:00 PM (\$20/person)
- Sun, Feb. 6, **ONE SERVICE** at 9:30 AM in the main church
- Sun., Feb. 6, **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**, 10:30 AM. Potluck Lunch following.
- Wed., Feb. 9, **Creative Call** meets, 7 PM
- Sun., Feb. 13, **Property Meeting**, 8:30 AM, Grace Place
- Sun., Feb. 13, **Pre-Summit Meeting**, 11:45 AM. Lunch provided.
- Sun., Feb. 13, **Book Club** Meeting & Lunch, 12 noon at Grace Place
- Thurs., Feb. 17, **Vestry Meeting**, 7:00 PM
- Wed., Feb. 23, **Healing Service** at 12:15 PM in chapel
- Sat., Feb. 27, **Bingo Fundraiser for Church**, 2:00 PM
- Sun., Mar 6, **ONE SERVICE** at 9:30 AM in the main church
- Sun., Mar 6, **SUMMIT MEETING & LUNCH**, 10:30 AM
- Sun., Mar 13, Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Sun., Mar 13, **Food Ingathering** for Claymont Community Center
- Sun., Mar 20, **SUMMIT MEETING SNOWDATE**
- Sat., May 14, **FLEA MARKET DATE**
- Sat., May 21, **Flea Market Rain Date**

ATTENTION!



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



Tim, Jean, and Judy Young

Jean Young is a native Delawarean and has lived in Wilmington all her life. She worked for a number of years at Strawbridge & Clothiers. While working there, she was able to attend classes to become a certified Master Gardener. For the past 23 years she has been a volunteer in the Master Gardener Program at the Extension office of the University of Delaware. Jean gets a great deal of enjoyment from this work: helping individuals/families plan and set up gardens, teaching classes to children and adults, and visiting area schools. She is trained in all areas of vegetation: floral, shrubs, trees, vegetable gardens, etc. So do you have a garden question? Check with Jean!

Jean's adult children, Tim and Judy, are very involved with Special Olympics. They routinely train in the sports of tennis, golf and bowling. At the summer games, Tim and Judy will compete in tennis, and they will bowl at the fall competition. In addition to their physical training, Judy and Tim volunteer in the Special Olympics office doing mailings for the organization.

The Young Family has gotten involved at Grace: Jean and Judy help with the Emmanuel Dining Room cooking; Jean did some handicrafts for Grace's Holiday Craft Show. We are pleased to have the Young family with us at Grace Church!

CHURCH NEWS AROUND the CONGREGATION

The main church was filled for the Saturday evening, Dec. 18th Chesapeake Brass Holiday Concert. (About 180 attended — way more than we expected the Sat. before Christmas!) The music was wonderful and festive — putting everyone in the holiday mood! Thanks to all who helped set up, sell tickets, count cash, baked goodies, and parked cars. Thanks to Irv Hollingsworth for booking and overseeing the event. . . .

Christmas Eve services were well attended at Grace. For the early Family Service a new children's pageant, *A Simple Christmas Pageant*, was presented. Many thanks to Juli Bailey, Sandy Tonjes, Beth Beck, Brenda Trageser, Sunday School teachers/students and congregational volunteers for the production! . . .

On Sunday, Jan. 16, Bishop Wayne Wright held his annual visitation to Grace Church. The Bishop presided over the baptism of Andrew Burris, Jr. (son of Amanda Marshall and Andrew Burris Sr.); the confirmation of Noah Miles (son of Paul and Lil Miles); and the reception of Ken Taylor (husband of Lilly Taylor). Congrats to all! The bishop spoke to the parishioners following the service regarding the upcoming rector search. Many thanks to the vestry for organizing the reception.



A Little Chuckle for the Day

Humor for Lexiphiles (Lovers of Words)

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.



A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

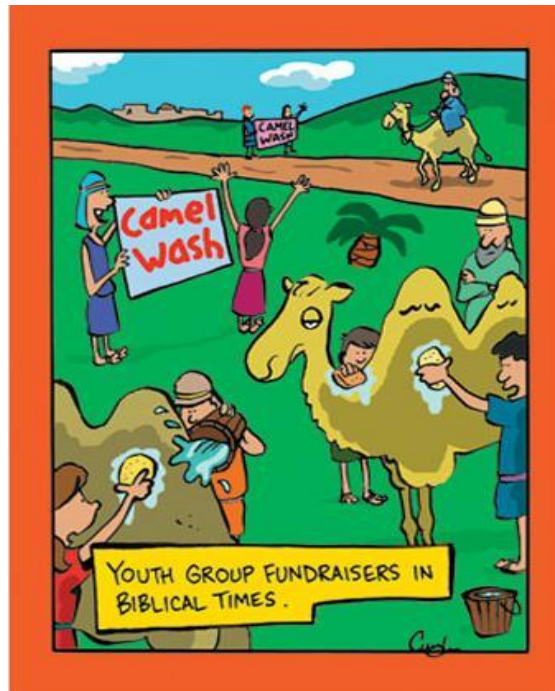
He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.



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The Rev. Emily S. Gibson, Interim Rector

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 Office Hours: Mon—Fri, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Service Times:
 Sunday Holy Eucharist, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
 (Nursery is available at the 10:30) *(Sept-May)*
 Live B.I.G. and Tweens & Teens, 10:15 a.m.
 J2A (Journey to Adulthood) 9:30—10:25 a.m.
 4th Wed. of month, Healing Svc, 12:15 p.m.



www.gracedelaware.org

Click on the link for the **online parish calendar** and stay up to date on events at Grace Church!



**Monday
Feb. 21**

VESTRY OF GRACE

- Tom Marshall, Sr. Warden (2011)**
- Paul Miles, Jr. Warden (2012)**
- Jean Burton (2012)**
- Patrick Diamond (2011)**
- John Haley (2011)**
- Margaret Palmatary (2013)**
- Lynn Phillips (2013)**
- Jennifer Quesenberry (2013)**
- Julie Simone (2012)**
- Fred Tennille (2011)**
- Sandy Tonjes (2013)**
- Brenda Trageser (2012)**



Emily+'s Weekly Schedule

In the office Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday's, available for appointments in the mornings. Pastoral visits, whether to homes or the hospital, generally will be in the afternoons. Emily's office hours will be adjusted according to other parish or diocesan commitments, so please call if you want to be sure to see her.