

SPRING 2024



The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains


Dear Grace Church Family,

Welcome to the season of Easter!

It's a time for happiness. Through the resurrection of Jesus we celebrate the joy of His victory over death; death did not have the last word and final say: Jesus did! Easter Sunday is the central event in the church year; it is so important because all of Christianity revolves around the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not risen; And if Christ has not risen, then our preaching is in vain [it amounts to nothing] and our faith is devoid of truth and is fruitless (without effect, empty, imaginary, and unfounded).

Easter is not just one day - it's a season of 50 days, a week of weeks, derived in its length from the fifty days between Passover and Pentecost (which means fiftieth) in Judaism. Easter season begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends with Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.



Easter lasts 50 days because after the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended, and then there were ten more days after that before the Day of Pentecost (the day the Holy Spirit descended onto the followers of Jesus).

During Easter, our Sunday worship focuses on Jesus's encounters with His friends after the resurrection. During this time, we reflect on what it means to live with resurrection hope now. We also practice being attentive to glimpses of resurrection light in our daily lives. Celebrating Easter does not mean that we no longer have doubts, fear, or sadness in our lives, or that there isn't a place for them (there most certainly is). Rather, it means learning to anchor ourselves in God's dream—a dream of wholeness, peace, and complete belonging for everybody.

At the same time, we find ourselves in the Season of Spring. The word spring comes from an old English word that means "beginning". Spring comes when the sun is positioned directly over the Earth's equator making the days and nights almost the same length.

That makes it generally a very pleasant time of year; Spring – and the holidays of spring like Easter – represent a new beginning. Flowers begin to bloom, trees get green again, it's a fresh start. It's a season of rebirth and renewal. It's a vibrant time with warmth and light – a period of refreshing and deep joy. Have you noticed that people smile more in spring?

I believe that the spirit of spring is expressed in this passage from the Song of Solomon: "For behold the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

Ahead of us we have very important celebrations--Mother's Day on May 12, Pentecost Sunday on May 19, Father's Day on June 16, the Visitation of Bishop Allen Shin also on June 16, the Homecoming Barbecue on September 8 and our most important celebration of the year our 200th Anniversary, on September 21 at 3:00 PM.

Grace Church, have faith. Our hope is placed in God who has authority over all things. Romans 8:28 emphasizes: "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, those whom He has called according to His purpose."

God bless you all and Happy Easter!

Rev. Adolfo Moronta+



REGIONAL GATHERING WITH THE BISHOP

By Eileen McClean

On March 9th, I attended the Regional Gathering for the parishes of Westchester County and Rockland County. This gathering was held at St. Barnabas Church in Irvington. It was attended by Bishop Heyd and Bishop Shin, who warmly welcomed a good representation from all the local parishes, including Grace/LaGracia.

The parishes were asked to bring a gift which represented their parish. Grace/LaGracia presented a T-shirt which represented the food alliance that took place during the pandemic.

A well-organized reception followed.

UPCOMING GRACE/LaGRACIA CHURCH CALENDAR

APRIL

- **April 23** Vestry Meeting
- **April 28** La Gracia Committee Meeting

MAY

- **May 5** Cinco de Mayo
- **May 9** Ascension Day
- **May 12** Ascension Sunday
- **May 12** Mother's Day
- **May 19** Pentecost
- **May 26** Trinity Sunday
- **May 26** La Gracia Committee Meeting
- **May 27** Memorial Day
- **May 28** Vestry Meeting

JUNE

- Quarterly Review
- **June 4** Trinity Sunday
- **June 18** Father's Day (Grace/La Gracia)
- **June 19** Juneteenth
- **June 25** La Gracia Committee Meeting
- **June 27** Vestry Meeting

Grace Church Sunday School/Youth Education

By George O'Hanlon

Our Grace Church Sunday School/Youth Education program has had a very busy winter. A highlight of our winter quarter is always our Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood for our Rite 13 Celebrities. On March 17th, we celebrated the graduation of four members of our Rite 13 program, as they prepare to move from Middle School to High School. These Celebrities are Aadi Kumar, Christian Carrasquillo, Savannah MacLeish, Sebastian Lopes. Aadi, Savannah and Sebastian are all longstanding members of our Youth Education program. Christian joined our program this year, having moved into our area in 2023. The Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood is a special annual event in the life of our Church. We recognize that as our Middle Schoolers graduate from Middle School and move on to High School, that they are also moving on to adulthood. For this reason, we hold this special event for them each year. We are very proud of the fact that they completed a serious curriculum as Rite 13 members, having studied the types and importance of prayer; the fact that we are all as humans in the image of God; that we are justified by our Faith; and that it is imperative as Christians that we participate in acts of compassion and service, which helps us grow as Christians and as people. We thank our parents who stood behind these fine young people as they graduated from our Rite 13 program – Ronak and Agustina Kumar; Norma Quijano; Erika Santos; and Rich and Andrea MacLeish/LaCourciere. We look forward to the continuing participation of these students in our program, as members of J2A.



We were delighted to have a second winter celebration event for our Sunday school program on February 25th. The Church awarded four of our longstanding teachers an Extra Mile award. Recipients were: Erika Santos, Ingrid Richards, Lauren Reid and Tiffany Woodberry. Lauren has served as the J2A (high school) teacher for many years and is also an active participant in the Sumer Youth Conference. Erika, Ingrid and Tiffany combine to teach all of our students up through 6th grade. We appreciate their sacrifice in coming each week prepared to teach a lesson, and who must miss most of the regular Church service as a result. We thank them for their dedicated efforts.

Lest we focus solely on celebrations, however, let us keep in mind that our Sunday School/Youth Education program remains active on a weekly basis. Our J2A (high school) program meets after the 10am service on many Sundays and has recently added two new assistant teachers to Lauren Reid – Sam Brown and Nikolas O’Hanlon. Both are longstanding members of Grace Church. In addition to the education program J2A offers, J2A has been focused on service. They are currently undertaking a shoes collection project, to support those in need of this crucial resource. J2A looks forward to undertaking additional service projects later in the year. As already stated in this Angelus, the Rite 13 (Middle School) class has been studying and preparing for its Rite 13 Celebration. Now that the Celebration is over, Rite 13 will continue to meet during the remainder of the school year and continue its study of core Christian principles. Our primary and pre-K students also meet weekly and follow a curriculum consistent with the sermon from the 10am service.


In January, to commemorate Black History Month, our entire Sunday School program participated by reading a series of quotes by famous Black Americans during the 10am service.



Our program is always looking for prospective students and teachers. If you are aware of any parents who may be interested in having their children join our program, or if you know of any students pre-K through high school who may be interested, please contact George O’Hanlon at ohanlongeorge42@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE





200th Anniversary of Grace/LaGracia
Update from the Committee

The 200th Anniversary Committee continues to work diligently in its efforts to ensure that we have a beautiful and memorable celebration of our **200th Anniversary!** We continue our fundraising efforts and I am pleased to share with you an update of what has taken place as well as looking ahead to what we have planned.

On January 28, 2024 the History Committee under the leadership of Irene Alves and Ginger Waters did a phenomenal presentation of the “**First 100 Years of Grace Church**”. The oral delivery and video presentation provided an educational and informative “look back” at the growth and development of the church, the community and the Priests that served at Grace during those years. Those in attendance participated in a fun-filled “Were You Listening?” game with prizes for the winners. A wonderful and sumptuous offering of food was provided as well.

Watch this space for the announcement of the presentation of the “**Next 50 Years**”.

On Saturday, February 24, 2024, under the leadership of Committee Member Eileen McClean, the Committee hosted a **MUSICAL RECITAL**, featuring **Tenor Everett Suttle and Pianist and Organist Thomas Hobson Williams** as they paid tribute to, and in remembrance of, Harry Burleigh, a renowned Classical Baritone, Composer and Arranger. The Recital was fantastic, and the combined talents of Everett Suttle and Thomas Hobson Williams left the audience wanting more. This was the perfect celebration of music to honor **Black History Month**. We look forward to enjoying more events of this nature this year.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, we were blessed with another musical concert. This was the **Bach-Themed Concert** by our own Director of Music and Organist, **Michael DiLeo, Jr.** This was not only in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Grace Church, but also to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Guilbault-Therien Pipe Organ at Grace Church. Michael’s “one man show” was outstanding as he mesmerized those of us in attendance with his fine musical talent.

Coming up on Saturday, April 6, 2024, the ECW, under the leadership of Committee Member Melanie Jackson, will sponsor and host a “**Sip & Mingle**”, event which promises to be a wonderful evening of wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres, allowing attendees to engage in education about wine, the history of Grace Church and, of course, to enjoy the wonderful fellowship. As of this writing, tickets are still available – so plan to enjoy the fun of this event!

There are several other ideas and events in the planning stage. So as they say ... “watch this space!”

But what is absolutely important is that we need YOU! We need your presence and support of our endeavors. Remember, this is YOUR church, and we are celebrating the church and each other. So, we hope you will find the time to come out and participate in these events, bring a friend, and offer your time, talent or treasure to make sure that we showcase and commemorate our beautiful Grace/LaGracia! YOU hold the key to our success!

Peace and Blessings,
Delores Scott Brathwaite, Chair
Hillary Fleming, Co-Chair



Priest in Charge Report March 2024

Dear Grace Church Family,

The month of March finds us in the continuation of the Liturgical season of Lent which centers on 3 pillars: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The liturgical season of Lent began on February 14 with Ash Wednesday and ends on March 28. It is important to mention that on Ash Wednesday we had 3 services and, on that day, almost 200 received ashes. As the season of Lent comes to an end, we welcome another liturgical season, Holy Week (March 24 through March 31). During Holy week we will embark on a journey that will take us through the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. Additionally, we were more than blessed to have Bishop Allen Shin preside over our well attended Palm Sunday service this past Sunday.

The church continues to be incredibly busy. Here's a brief update

Church attendance for the month of March was **728**.

February: was dedicated to Black History month where we had an excellent line up of speakers and as part of our tradition, on the first Sunday the drummers and a dancer performed as part of the service. The music for the whole month was exceptional, our Organist did a wonderful job selecting good music and soloists throughout the first 3 weeks. Special thanks to the chair of Black History month, Victoria Carter for putting a wonderful program together.

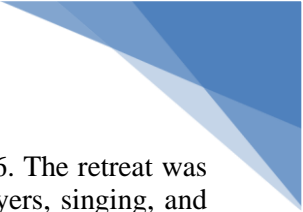
March: was dedicated to Women's History Month, which was a perfect opportunity to recognize the women who have been active in the church for so long. We honored 5 distinguished parishioners: **Irene Alves, Sylvia Simon, Carole Lashley, Charlotte Roberson and Elaine Reid**. Each of them received a plaque and we had the opportunity to learn more about their backgrounds and accomplishments. I want to thank the ECW for the reading of The Litany in Honor of Woman Here and Around the World and the Reading of the Manifesto for Woman, and Marie Barrow for collaborating with me. It's my hope that this activity becomes a tradition at Grace/ La Gracia.

Lent: As part of our activities during Lent, every Tuesday we held the Stations of the Cross followed by the Eucharist. On February 17, we had a Lenten retreat in conjunction with St Andrews, St Barnabas and St Joseph titled Rest, Reflect & Renew. The retreat was well attended and marked the beginning of future collaborations with these parishes,

Grants: I applied for the Hispanic Grant for **\$6,000 for 2024**. This grant is given to the parish because there is a Latino Ministry and is given specifically for this purpose. The County of Westchester also approved a Grant for \$10,000 for The Caring Cupboard. The funds when received will be used exclusively for this outreach ministry.

Holy Week: We are currently putting the finishing touches on our Holy Week bulletins; we will have a great lineup of Soloists and special music. I want to express my gratitude to the Altar Guild, the Acolytes and the Ushers who help us organize these services.

Pastoral Care: The Pastoral Care Committee has a new chair, Sandy McAllister.



Vestry Retreat: The Vestry had its yearly retreat in conjunction with St Andrews on March 16. The retreat was titled Reset, Transform and Heal. It was a successful event where a combination of talks, prayers, singing, and exercises were implemented.

Bishop's visitation: Bishop Shin will be visiting us on June 16. Confirmation Classes are set to begin the third week of April every Sunday after the 10:00 AM service. Those wishing to be confirmed should please sign up for the confirmation classes on the whiteboard at the entrance of the church or by calling our church office.

200 Anniversary Celebration: With the purpose to help raise funds for the 200-anniversary celebration I have reached out to one of our parishioners and he has generously responded saying that he would match up to \$5000 of the donations that we receive.

Shoji Mizumoto's discernment process: I recently submitted the Shoji's Parish Recommendation Letter for Postulancy to the Diocese. This is the final document required from Grace Church to help complete his process. Shoji has also shared with us the good news that he has been accepted into Yale Divinity School.

La Gracia member donated new computer to church office: A parishioner of La Gracia has recently donated a new computer that will be used by our Parish Administrator. This new desktop computer will make an immediate impact with faster response based on the more advanced CPU (chips) and the supporting hardware, more storage and faster data retrieval. The computer has an internal electronic hard drive (SSD NVME) which requires less maintenance, lower profile design requiring less space and improved energy efficiency and the installation of Windows 11 Professional.

Mission Review for Clergy: I recently attended a meeting with the clergy of the area for the Mission Review. The mission review has the purpose to prayerfully listen to the voices of our Diocese, to set priorities for our common life over the next 5 years and to articulate our vision through a shared common story of our governance structures, diocesan staff, and operating budget of the Diocese.

LA GRACIA

The La Gracia committee continues to meet once a month.

Organizing activities for Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday, where lunch will be served to all parishioners after the 12:30 PM service.

Organizing Mother's Day activities.

Future and Ongoing

- I continue to have weekly staff meetings with Michael, Suzan, Maria and the Sexton.
- Pastoral visits are done on a weekly basis.
- I continue working with the Caring Cupboard which is stocked three times a week and allows residents to obtain basic food necessities throughout the day on weekdays and on Sundays. We reach approximately 100 families each month through this outreach ministry.

Grace Church Book Club Update

Join us in our monthly journeys through fascinating books



Did you know?

- Against the odds, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist and renowned educator Mary McLeod Bethune became close personal friends with shared goals and unwavering commitment to women's rights, civil rights, and education.
- During a time when their interracial friendship was considered unacceptable, together, they helped implement "New Deal" policies for all Americans, particularly for African Americans.
- Roosevelt and Bethune influenced policies that evolved into legislation during the Franklin Roosevelt administration, moving the country further toward equality.

Inspired by Roosevelt and Bethune's actual, but unlikely, friendship, authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray penned their historical novel, **The First Ladies**, shedding a bright light on their enduring connection that led to many accomplishments and major steps forward in U.S. history.

Uplifted by the friendship they forged, the two dynamic and formidable women fought for justice and equality while also supporting each other through personal and professional challenges and setbacks, along with their hard-won successes.

We thought this would be a perfect selection for Women's History Month. In the words of some members of the book club:

*"I thoroughly enjoyed **The First Ladies**. As an historical novel, it shows the extraordinary friendship between two strong women, Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt. Their passionate fight for justice and equality forged a partnership that was very unusual in that time. Their story made you want to read more about each individual woman and know more about their journey."* (Irene Alves)

“I can never resist another book about my personal heroine Eleanor Roosevelt. This one centered on her friendship with Mary McLeod Bethune and their work together on behalf of civil rights. That made it all the more special.” (Mary Baker)

“How wonderful to read a book about two strong women during Women's History month. After reading the book, I realize that Mary McLeod Bethune and Elenore Roosevelt were a tremendous impetus for change during Franklin Roosevelt's tenure as president.” (Sylvia Simon)

“Yet again, this is another book that might not have come to my attention were it not for the book club. For me, it brought to life an important part of history through the lens of two powerful women whose efforts were often overshadowed, yet managed to accomplish so much despite the obstacles they faced. (Karen Odom)

Next, the book club plans to focus on finding joy “in the face of life’s inevitable suffering” when we will be guided by spiritual leaders His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who co-authored **The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World**. During our April 9 Zoom meeting, we’ll examine how they were able to experience incredible hardships and oppression, yet emerge joyful.

Interested in joining in our book journeys? Contact Karen Odom at karenodom@yahoo.com. Our monthly meetings are held on Zoom.

-- Submitted by Karen Odom

MEMORIAL DAY – MAY 27th





OUR NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION ON FEBRUARY 25, 2024



EILEEN McCLEAN



GEORGE O'HANLON



ANDREA SPENCER



SANDY McALLISTER



KEVIN RICHARDS



DAISY CALDERON

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Mary Baker

Camille Worrell

Sorraya Sampson-Elliott



VESTRY 2024

1. Eileen McClean – Sr. Warden, Welcoming & Music Committee Chairwoman
2. George O’Hanlon - Jr. Warden & Youth Ministry Chairman
3. Kevin Richards – Treasurer
4. Daisy Calderon – Member & One Church Committee Chairwoman
5. Sorraya Sampson – Member & Buildings and Grounds Chairwoman
6. Mary Baker – Member & Angelus Chairwoman
7. Camille Worrell – Member & Usher Chairwoman
8. Sandy McAllister – Member & Pastoral Care Chairwoman
9. Andrea Spencer – Member & Stewardship Chairwoman
10. Fr. Adolfo Moronta – Member & Priest-In-Charge

VESTRY RETREAT

On Saturday, March 16th, our newly organized Vestry, along with the St. Andrew’s Vestry, met for a full day at St. Andrew’s church in order to set the stage for a productive year ahead. The retreat was led by Naomi Shihab Nye.

The day began by sharing our understanding of what exactly the Vestry is in charge of as well as some of the hopes we have for this ministry within the parish. We agreed that this vision must always be led with Christ’s presence along with our own vision for our parish fellowship. We are hoping to function as a flowing river which is always moving forward and being carried along by well-flowing movement rather than being stuck and stranded in a muddy, stagnant pond.

There was a lively discussion of what it means to be a part of the Vestry, including what we had expected before we were elected Vestry members, and how, or whether, our expectations had been met. We all agreed that no matter what our expectations had been or what the reality actually became, we were committed to the importance of our service to the parish going forward.

Our hope for our Vestry going forward is to follow up on old issues, to be open to new ideas, parish growth, transparency, working well within all parish and Diocesan rules, and concentrating on the mission of the church, but always recognizing the importance of discussing, and perhaps disagreeing, in a spirit of respect and congeniality. And always totally supporting whatever decisions are ultimately made, realizing they have been made by our fellow Christian parishioners on behalf of the church we all love.

One thing we all agreed on passionately was the observation that, as Vestry members, we are willing to do the work of the parish, but what the Vestry needs and counts on most is that the people of the parish must be willing to step up and volunteer to carry out the activities of the parish. Only with the active work and participation of each person in the parish, can the mission and activities of the Grace/LaGracia be carried out.



On Mother's Day we are flooded with memories of experiences we enjoy now or in the past with such an important person in our life. Some of those memories are perhaps of such small details as the perfume she always wore, or the cake she always baked you for your birthday, or the favorite dinner she always prepared for your family. Perhaps you recall vacation events, growing up events, or difficult conversations you had with her.

Did you look to your mother for help when the going got tough? Did she ever give you advice when you encountered difficulties?

A very well-known poet, Langston Hughes, has written a poem about just such advice given by a mother. Here is that poem ---

Mother to Son

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor—
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.



On Father's Day, do you remember the important lessons you learned from your father, such as the importance of caring for one another, like a father carrying his child across a busy street!

SHOULDERS

By Naomi Shihab Nye

A man crossed the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.

No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.

Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE. His ear fills up with breathing.

He bears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world

if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

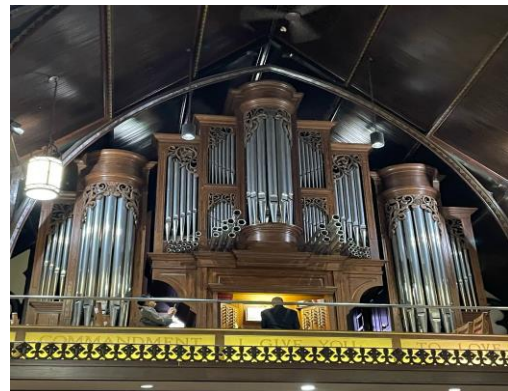
Bach-Themed Organ Concert

Presented by Grace Organist Michael DiLeo

On March 16th, 2024, Michael DiLeo, Grace Church Organist and Choirmaster presented an organ and piano recital, which was a fundraiser as part of the 200th Anniversary of Grace Church, as well as for the 35th Anniversary of our magnificent 4 Manual Guilbault-Therian Pipe Organ. Michael presented various works by Bach for both organ and piano, which came from the Baroque time period. One of those pieces included the Fantasia in G Major, with its French Term “Pièce D’Orgue”, although there is no autograph of this piece that was ever written.

Johann Sebastian Bach (born March 21 [March 31, New Style], 1685, Eisenach, Thuringia, Ernestine Saxon Duchies [Germany]—died July 28, 1750, Leipzig) composer of the Baroque era, the most celebrated member of a large family of north German musicians. Although he was admired by his contemporaries primarily as an outstanding harpsichordist, organist, and expert on organ building, Bach is now generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time and is celebrated as the creator of the Brandenburg Concertos, The Well-Tempered Clavier, the Mass in B Minor, and numerous other masterpieces of church and instrumental music. Appearing at a propitious moment in the history of music, Bach was able to survey and bring together the principal styles, forms, and national traditions that had developed during preceding generations and, by virtue of his synthesis, enrich them all.

We raised around \$700.00 for this concert which all proceeds will go towards the 200th Anniversary Celebration in September. Thank you all for your generosity and stay tuned for more concert updates.





**The Investiture and Installation of The Right Reverend Matthew Foster Heyd as
XVII Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York**
by Irene Alves

On Saturday morning, February 10, 2024, we again journeyed to the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine. This time it was for The Investiture and Installation of Bishop Coadjutor, The Right Reverend Matthew Foster Heyd as XVII Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Needless to say, the cathedral was packed, awaiting the dawn of a new season and spiritual successor to lead the church’s mission and tradition in the years ahead.


During this service The Right Reverend Matthew F. Heyd was the officiant and The Reverend Winnie Varghese, preacher. The service included prayer, music and readings that celebrated the many voices and traditions of our Diocese and the rich history of New York.

There were no banners representing the many churches in the Diocese but there was preludial music including a brass choir and organ. The procession included representatives from Episcopal Charities and organizations serving migrant communities and asylum seekers and the clergy, religious, postulants, and candidates of the Diocese of New York. As we remained seated, the Dean said the Bidding Prayer.

We all stood. The new Bishop, attended by four deacons stood outside The Great Bronze Doors and knocked three times. The doors were opened and the new Bishop said “Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.”



FANFARE as the great doors are opening in the rear Claudio Monteverdi (1567 - 1643)



When the Bishop had entered, the Dean, on behalf of all, said:

“Bishop Heyd, you are welcome. The people of the Diocese of New York are assembled that we may celebrate the ministry to which you have been entrusted and to induct you into that office.”

The People responded: The Lord prosper you. We wish you well in the Name of the Lord.

The new Bishop said: “I Matthew Foster Heyd, whom God has ordained to be shepherd and servant, and who has been chosen as Bishop of this Diocese, come to you, desiring to be invested and seated in the chair which is the symbol of that office.”

The People said: “We recognize and receive Matthew as our new Bishop and will uphold him in this ministry.

Deacon: “Let us go forth in the name of Christ “

People: “Thanks be to God”

The procession proceeded with the hymn sung by all: *Siel Espiritu de Dios se mueve en mi, yo canto como David* (When the spirit of the Lord moves in my soul I’ll sing just as David sang)

The Investiture:

Bishop Dietsche said “My brother, you have been ordained as a bishop by the Church and as a bishop of this Diocese. I now invest you as Bishop of New York with all the temporal and spiritual rights and responsibilities that pertain to that office; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Bishop Dietsche presented the Crozier, “On behalf of the people and clergy of the Diocese of New York, I give into your hands this pastoral staff. May Christ the good Shepherd uphold you and sustain you as you carry it in His name.”


People: Amen

A Bible was brought from the Altar and held before Bishop Heyd. Bishop Heyd laid his hand upon it and took this oath:

“I, Matthew Foster Heyd, Bishop in the Church of God, now duly acknowledged as Bishop of this Diocese, receive this pastoral staff at your hands as a token of my jurisdiction and of your recognition, and do solemnly promise that I will observe, and to the utmost of my power fulfill, the responsibilities and obligations of this office, striving in all things to be a faithful shepherd to the flock of Christ. So help me God.”

People: Amen”

The people were seated and a reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah was read in Malayalam . The choir then sang the anthem “Now in the cool of the day” by Jean Ritchie (1922-2015).



Three readings from the archives of the Diocese of New York were read:

1. A selection from “The Call of This Present Time Today the Anglican Communion throughout the World”, preached by the Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, X Bishop of New York, on September 12, 1934
2. A selection from “The Struggles of the Rights of Man”. by Eleanor Roosevelt, a lifelong member of the Diocese of New York, given in 1948.
3. A selection from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, in May 1965

These readings were interspersed with the hymn (sung by all) “In Christ there is no East or West,” an anthem “Walk together, children” ((African-American Spiritual, arranged by Moses Hogan (1957-2003), a reading from The First Epistle To The Corinthians (read in Krua language spoken in southeast of Liberia to the west of the Ivory Coast), and an anthem, Ubi Caritas,” (Ola Gjeilo, b. 1978) sung by the choir. This was followed by the hymn, “Come down, O Love Divine” and a reading from The Gospel of Matthew which was read in American Sign Language.

A riveting sermon was delivered by The Rev. Winnie Varghese, Rector, Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Ga. Followed by The renewal of Baptismal Vows and anthem “Blessed Be” (sung by the choir).

And then the seating of the Bishop of New York!!!

The Bishop Suffragan, the Bishop Assistant, and the Dean of the Cathedral Church, met the Bishop at the Cathedra.

The Dean said “Matthew Foster Heyd, Bishop in the Church of God, and our Bishop, we welcome you to your Cathedral Church, the symbol and center of your pastoral, liturgical. and teaching ministry in this Diocese “.

The Bishop responded saying “I, Matthew Foster Heyd thank you for your welcome. I promise, God helping me, to be a faithful shepherd and servant among you. I pray that the ministry which we will share will be pleasing to God, and that it may strengthen the life of this Diocese, and the whole Church of God.

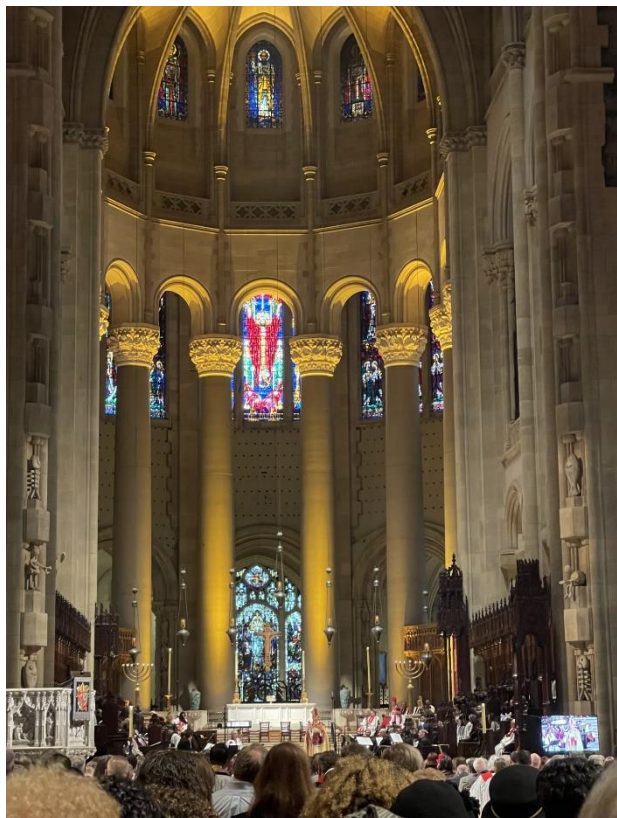
Prayers were then said with each invited to pray The Lord’s Prayer in their own language .

Prayers continued in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Haitian Creole, ending with the prayers of the Bishop Assistant and the people responding with Amen.

The Dean said “In the name of the Chapter of this Cathedral Church, and on behalf of the people of this Diocese, I install you, Matthew Foster Heyd, in the chair appointed to your office. May the Lord stir up in you the flame of holy charity, and the power of faith that overcomes the world.” The people said Amen.

The Bishop sat, and the people offered their acclamations and applause!!! A letter was read from The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby by Rev. Dylan Turner, Anglican Communion Relations Officer.

The Peace was exchanged . There was a greeting to all from The Right Reverend Matthew Foster Heyd, XV11 Bishop of New York.



The offertory anthem “Te Deum” (Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) was sung by the choir. The Episcopal blessing was given: The Bishop gave the blessing and the people responded “Amen”. Then there was the Dismissal and singing of the hymn “Blessed Assurance” and that ended this spectacular service. A festive celebration followed and was enjoyed by all.

What a day! It was pure joy to be a part of a new season in the Episcopal Church.



READINGS GIVEN DURING BISHOP HYDE'S INSTALLATION

During the installation of Bishop Hyde, two readings were a part of the service. These are so meaningful and memorable that they are printed here for you to appreciate.

A selection from "The Struggles of the Rights of Man" by Eleanor Roosevelt, a lifelong parishioner of the Diocese of New York, given in 1948

Sometimes the processes of democracy are slow...we have learned by experience, and we accept the slow processes of democracy because we know that short-cuts compromise principles on which no compromise is possible...The United Nations must hold fast to the heritage of freedom won by the struggle of the peoples; it must help us to pass it on to generations to come.

The development of the ideal of freedom and its translation into the everyday life of the people in great areas of the earth is the product of the efforts of many peoples. It is the fruit of a long tradition of vigorous thinking and courageous action. No one race and no one people can claim to have done all the work to achieve greater dignity for human beings and greater freedom to develop human personality. In each generation and in each century, there must be a continuation of the struggle and new steps forward must be taken since this is preeminently a field in which to stand still is to retreat.

A selection from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in May, 1965

I am convinced that love is the highest goal. John is right. God is love. And he who hates does not know God. And he who loves at that moment has the key that unlocks the door. Leads to ultimate reality. So you can master the intricacies of the English language. You can rise to the eloquence of meticulous speech, but if you have not loved you will become a sounding brass to tinkle and symbol. You may have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries. You may understand the behavior of molecules. You may have all knowledge, rise to the heights of academic attainment but if you have not love, it means absolutely nothing. You may even give your goods to the poor, rise high in philanthropy but without love it means nothing. You may even give your body to be burned and die the death of a martyr. Generations yet unborn will look on you as history's supreme heroes, but if you have not loved, your blood was spilt in vain for you must come to see, American Christians, that it's possible to self-centered in your self-sacrifice and self-righteous in your self-denial. You may be generous in order to feed your ego, benevolent to feed your pride. So without love benevolence becomes egotism and martyrdom becomes spiritual pride. Love is the greatest of all virtues. This is the meaning of the cross, not a meaningless drama on the stage of history, but it is a telescope through which we look out the distance of eternity and see the love of God breaking through into time. It is an eternal reminder of the power of love over hate.

GRACE/LA GRACIA BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024 THE POWER OF A DREAM

By Victoria Carter

Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans that make the United States the place it is today. “There is no American History without African American History.” Black history is American history 365 days a year.

Feb. 4th-Michael Heffner, Grace Church member who is currently attending Divinity School was our opening speaker. He gave a sermon on Black History Month, immigration, and the Bible. Before and during the service, there was healing West African drumming. Terrell Harris danced before the offertory, contributing strength and spirit. The Alkebulan Drummers, Tony Harris, Olumide Gilbert and Victoria Carter even joined in for two of the choir’s anthems “Oh Freedom” and “Gimme Yo’ Han’. Throughout the month Michael A. DiLeo Jr., Director of Music and organist of Grace Church led the choir in a series of spirituals and anthems. He gave brief tutorials about all the African American composers chosen throughout the month.



Feb. 11th-Mayo Bartlett, criminal defense attorney, former Westchester prosecutor and civil rights trial attorney was our keynote speaker. He encouraged us and spoke of the foremost importance of reparations. George O’ Hanlon, and Ingrid Richards Tiffany Hutton-Woodberry, Erika Santos. involved our youth in this uplifting service. The scholars gave a presentation of inspirational quotes from luminary African Americans.



Feb. 18th-Judge Delores Scott Brathwaite was the keynote speaker. She is the Senior Judge for the Town of Greenburgh including the Villages of Ardsley, Elmsford, Hartsdale, Hastings, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry,

and Tarrytown. She has been a member of Grace Church/La Gracia for 45 years. Currently, she is the chairperson of the Grace Church/La Gracia 200th year anniversary committee. She reminded the Grace Church/La Gracia congregation that “behind every great man is a phenomenal woman,” and spoke about the extraordinary civil rights leader and wife of Martin Luther King Jr. the late Coretta Scott King. Judge Brathwaite brought Shaunice Alexander as guest soloist with her to participate in the service. Ms. Alexander gave the congregation a musical introduction with “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” followed by the anthem of the civil rights movement, “A Change is Gona Come,” by Sam Cooke. Please go to the Grace/La Gracia Facebook page where you can hear the tremendous interpretation of this remarkable song. After the service during coffee hour the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) led by Melanie Jackson hosted a rousing interactive Black History Month Jeopardy Game with buzzers and prizes. The theme for this year was “African Americans and the Arts.” Stay tuned for next year’s theme.



Feb 25th-Rev. Adolfo Moronta, Priest-In-Charge of Grace Church/La Garcia was the keynote speaker for the last Sunday in Black History Month. This was a bilingual service. His sermon illuminated the spiritual awareness of our divinity, “our life belongs to God, we aren’t in control God is.” This knowledge must have brought healing and deliverance to enslaved Africans who were under the horrendous oppression of slavery. Harriet Tubman, American abolitionist, and social activist who escaped the shackles of her own enslavement and freed countless others said, “God’s time is always near. He set the North Star in the heavens; He gave me the strength in my limbs; He meant I should be free.” Following the service there was an annual meeting conducted by the members of Grace/La Gracia. An election took place and new vestry members were voted in.



Looking forward to Black History Month 2025? We need to organize a committee. Would you or someone you know love to be a guest speaker? Please contact Rev. Adolfo Moronta, Priest-In-Charge with your feedback.



EARTH DAY - APRIL 22nd

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth!

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

The world and all who live in it;

For he founded it upon the seas

And established it upon the waters.

Psalm 24

And He told us to care for His creation!



2024 FREE PARKING FOR GRACE/LA GRACIA MEMBERS

- **Pay Station codes for free 4 hour parking during church services are available for PLEDGING MEMBERS of Grace/La Gracia**
- **Generally, one code is given per pledge; if a family needs two codes they can request one from Ginger Waters**
- **Coupon codes can only to be used in the Hamilton/Main garage across from the church**
- **Coupon codes can only be used on Sundays and High Holy days; On September 21, 2024 the coupon codes can be used to attend the 200th anniversary celebration.**
- **On Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve, parishioners who attend two services (day and evening) can use their coupon codes twice per day.**
- **To request a code or to confirm a code you already have, please see Ginger Waters after church or leave a message with your email address and/or phone number with the church office.**
- **Directions for use of the code at the pay station:**
 - **Select the language you want to use**
 - **Choose *pay by space***
 - **Enter the number of the space (stall) in which you are parked**
 - **Choose *Pay for parking***
 - **When the options for paying appear, choose *More Selections***
 - **Choose *4 hour coupon***
 - **Enter the code you have been given**
 - **The screen will say free parking and a receipt will be produced**



Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024
Sermon given by Michael Heffner
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

This is the final installment of a series of sermons I delivered here, beginning with my first in June last year. Today's readings and the two-part nature of the Palm Sunday service - with Jesus's triumphal entrance to Jerusalem and then the Passion of Christ from Mark's gospel – offer a rich selection to preach on. It's almost too much if you're trying to keep the sermon's message to two or three points. I will share with you early today that my message will be about leadership, and my focus will be on Christ's type of leadership, where his choice of humility rather than grand celebration establishes Jesus as a new type of king. When service is prioritized over the exercise of earthly power, we are provided with an example that surpasses all expectations.

I want to take a minor detour before I dive in.

As a student, driven by endless curiosity, I found it interesting that the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) only share episodes of Jesus's life where all four mention that story in just ten events. This is referred to as the Harmony of the Gospels. I don't want to oversimplify, but some break down the Gospels as follows:

In Mark – which we read today – Jesus is shown as a Servant of God. Mark speaks of what Jesus did.

Matthew focuses on what Jesus said – and presents him as the Messiah and King.

John portrays Jesus as the Son of God and emphasizes who Jesus was.

And Luke gives us Jesus, the Son of Man. He shares much about what Jesus felt.

As you might imagine, the Harmony of the Gospels occurs in the most well-known stories about Jesus, his miracles, his being betrayed by Peter, his crucifixion and death – and his triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Beginning with the 8th verse of the 11th chapter, Mark does not refer to Jesus's kingship – as Luke and John do – and chooses instead to describe the nature of Jesus's ministry and his connection to the kingdom of David.


As seminarians, we are encouraged to try new things when we preach. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't. I'm sure my family will tell me if it's the latter. Trying to make a connection between the stories of the oppressed in South Africa and New Haven, Connecticut, and the Palm Sunday story may not seem obvious. Still, I may have found it in the leaders whom I met during my time at seminary.



I returned from a pilgrimage to South Africa with divinity school students from my senior class last Saturday. The journey was designed to deepen our understanding of our connection as Episcopalians to the Anglican Communion. We split time between Capetown and the City of Makhanda (formerly known as Grahamstown). Our time spent in Capetown was rich with visits to historically meaningful places like Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for eighteen years. Imprisoned for standing against an oppressive government and trying to tear down the institutionalized Apartheid system of racial segregation. We learned about the forced removal of entire populations from their communities to remote locations to satisfy the need for racial separation in the District Six section of Capetown – a process that was repeated countless times across the country and plunged millions of Black and colored citizens into an irreversible condition of poverty. Our pace of movement during this trip was constant. The pilgrimage planners may have assumed that we would sleep on the plane... But the bridge between this particular journey and Palm Sunday is in the type of leadership that I witnessed. Deep spiritual commitment to God and neighbor. Selfless, humble, sacrificial service was the story of so many of the leaders we were able to meet. I am grateful that the Yale name carries with it a network of access that gave me the opportunity to have breakfast with the Anglican Archbishop of Capetown, Thabo Makgoba, a man who was greatly influenced in his work and spiritual journey by Desmond Tutu. A white South African priest and social activist named Michael Lapsley, who lost both hands, one of his eyes, and hearing in his right ear after he was targeted for a mail bomb for his work in bringing down the Apartheid system.

We lived, worshiped, attended class, and dined with students from the College of the Transfiguration Seminary in Makhanda.

This experience alone will make for an excellent future sermon, but I'd like to focus on a meeting with one person in particular. The drive to Margaret Ncangca's home was startling in the stark contrast that her neighborhood represented against the more developed area around the seminary grounds. The heavy smell of chicken dung permeated the air around her two-bedroom home. The yard was neat but was an



oasis in a neighborhood that clearly was home to the “have-nots” in her community. A simple sign that read “Home of Joy” was by the entrance. A few of my Yale cohorts and I were led into a living room that was just large enough for us to gather for a meeting with “Mama Margaret”. The short of the story is that she has provided a home for the past thirty-six years for children (not her own) who have been abandoned for all of the reasons you can imagine. Early on, she took money from government agencies but found that corruption and unreliability made this an unacceptable alternative. Instead, she relies on gifts from those who have become aware of what she is doing. Merchants give her discounts on items. Local schools reduce tuition for her children. Schools provide volunteers, clothing, and food. She has managed. The road has not been easy. At the beginning of this project, her neighbors were openly unsupportive as they could not imagine that one woman could provide for all of these children. But she has. Mama Margaret was a joyful presence for the entire visit. She spoke of challenges but emphasized how proud she was of the children she had raised and went on to better things. At the time of our visit – she was caring for thirty-six children—infants to teens. The count was thirty-four the day before we came. Two more had been dropped off by separate drug-addicted mothers who wanted a better life for their children.

Closer to home, in New Haven, I have been working alongside two remarkable people who have dedicated their lives to social justice in our community and the plight of the unhoused. For more than 30 years, Mark and Luz Colville have made their home in the Rosette Village (a neighborhood in New Haven remarkably similar to the one where Mama Margaret lives in Makhanda). There is a bodega on the corner, auto repair shops down the block, and a steady group of individuals drifting along the streets (either suffering from addictions or simply out of work and trying to pass the time). The deans at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale asked me to be the community outreach liaison this year – at the Amistad Catholic Worker House (as it is known to the community), which has been a relationship that needed rejuvenation. Total immersion, as is my preference, meant working alongside a team of volunteers in constructing six tiny homes in the backyard of the Colville’s house last October. This action was done in response to the city of New Haven’s decision to tear down a tent city in a nearby neighborhood, which provided shelter for the unhoused. The tiny homes were solid structures (and not inexpensive) but were built before final zoning approval was granted. The city protested. Mark, Luz, and the volunteers dug in. And so, it began. In my work (I’m at the site two days a week), I’ve witnessed loving, sacrificial leadership that they attribute to the model Jesus created and that others like Gandhi, King, Mother Theresa, Mandela, and Tutu have followed.

A consistent thread I’ve heard from these leaders when I’ve asked, “How can I help?” is not for money. They ask for prayers. They ask for love. They ask us to share their stories so that awareness can be raised. Would Jesus have given a different answer? As we enter this holiest of weeks, please reflect on how you can be a leader in your own life. How can you serve others and promote peace? In this fractured world that we live in today, we need to do more than acknowledge the problems.

We need to respond. There’s work to be done.
In Jesus’s name, we pray. Amen.

Bishop Shin Visits our parish on Palm Sunday



Our Bilingual Service



Our Festive Luncheon after Our Festive Service



Holy Thursday Services with Foot Washing

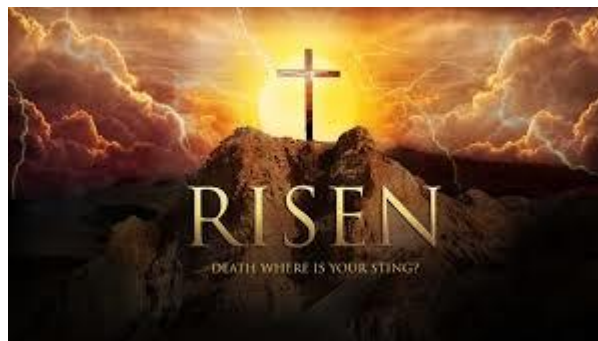




The Altar of Repose



HE IS RISEN! THANKS BE TO GOD!





IRENE M. ALVES


My family and I have been members of Grace Church since 1967. We have shared births, baptisms, marriages and deaths here. We have been embraced by the love and generosity of spirit of the Grace Church family. It is my joy to see my children and grandchildren become active members of this parish

As a member of Grace Church I attend the 10 o' clock service.
During my time at Grace I have served in many positions

Past and present:

- Sunday School Teacher /Youth Group
- Jubilee Choir
- Altar Guild
- Acolyte
- Vestry member (several vestries)
- Junior Warden
- Senior Warden
- One of the founding members of Grace Church Community Center and Board Member until 2005

- I am currently licensed by the Diocese of New York to serve as Eucharistic Minister, Worship Leader and Eucharistic visitor

- 
- Lay voting delegate to many Diocesan conventions
 - Currently one of 4 representing Grace at College of Congregational Development (Canon Conrado).
 - ECW
 - Book Club.

New York Diocesan Experience (past)

- Standing Committee
- Diocesan Council
- Provincial Synod
- Trustee of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Civic Affiliations:

- Former Town of Greenburgh Nature Center Board Member
- Former Town of Greenburgh Library Trustee

Professional:

Teacher in The Greenburgh Central 7 School District .

Served on many educational and leadership committees.

Union Representative for 15 years.

Retired in 2010 after 38 ½ years of service.

An academic scholarship has been established in my name
an is given annually to a graduate of Woodlands High School.




Sylvia simon

Sylvia Lenora Clark Simon was born and raised in the Bronx and the only child of Ruth Graham Clark and Sidney Clark.

Despite being an only child, she was close to the many cousins who lived nearby. As the older cousin, she often played school with her younger relatives. They said she was a strict teacher who frequently tested their reading and math skills.

She pursued her passion for teaching by attending City College and attained a B.S.in Education. While in college, she met her lifelong partner, Walter Simon, a Chemistry Major. They were married in 1963 and raised two daughters, Janine Simon Daughtry and Nicole Simon Mangum.



Sylvia spent her entire teaching career in New York City. She received her Master's in Reading and Supervision. She became an Assistant Principal and then Principal of CS70, the largest elementary school in the Bronx and second largest in the City. As Principal she received four National Blue-Ribbon School Awards from the U.S. Department of Education and cited by the Chancellor of NYC Department of Education as one of the most effective Principals in New York City. She also introduced Chess in the Schools to emphasize the need for children to think strategically. Her school won the National Chess Championship and competed for the world title. An HBO movie based on the Chess Team was also made. After retiring, Sylvia became a mentor to Principals and an Adjunct Professor of Education.

Sylvia and her family moved to Greenburgh in 1980 and joined Grace Episcopal Church. She became an active member assisting GCCC/LUW in the establishment of Samaritan House and the Neighbors program, served on the Vestry, chaired the Welcome Committee for twelve years and now is serving as an Usher, a Eucharistic Minister, and Head of the Counters. Sylvia is also a member of the Grace Church Book Club and ECW.

She has made many good friends at Grace.

Sylvia enjoys spending time with her daughters, two Sons-in-laws (Lloyd and Dean) four grandchildren (Maya, Waverly, Shane, and Kendal), family and friends as well as traveling. She feels blessed to be able to do so.



Charlotte Roberson

In a world filled with myriad pursuits, Charlotte Roberson stands as a shining example of unwavering commitment to one's family, life, and faith.

Born on April 7, 1947, Charlotte is the youngest of three children raised in Harlem, New York by Edith Helen and Eugene Cammac. The values of love, hard work, perseverance, and dedication lived large and reinforced at home. From an early age, it was evident that her desire to excel and belief in her personal abilities would serve her well as she pursued each endeavor.

Charlotte graduated from George Washington High School in 1963 and matriculated at The City College of New York. She graduated from CCNY in 1967 at the age of 21 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Following graduation, she began her career in public school education as a math teacher at Junior High School 43, where she was once a student. Charlotte returned to CCNY to pursue three different masters- one in mathematics education, one in guidance, and one in administration. While at JHS 43, she transitioned from being a teacher to a guidance counselor to assistant principal to interim principal. In 1996, she was appointed principal of Charles R. Drew Academy which was located in the South Bronx. While there, she opened a new school within that building, CIS 219. Charlotte retired from the New York City Department of Education after thirty-five years of dedicated service. Not one to rest for too long, she heeded the call to lead



the Specialized High School Institute at Townsend Harris High School from 2002 - 2006 before *fully* retiring in 2006.

Charlotte began her spiritual journey at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, attending Sunday school and actively participating in youth programs. After moving to White Plains in 1978, Charlotte was invited by her neighbor and longtime parishioner, Edna Coggins, to visit Grace Church. As her love for Grace Church deepened, Charlotte volunteered her time by being a Sunday School teacher, lay reader, and usher. Charlotte supported Grace's community ministry as a board member of the Grace Church Community Center and enjoyed volunteering at the church's annual tag sale as well as fundraising for Hope for the Homeless.

Charlotte's desire to embody the biblical principles of selflessness and servant leadership as well as her wish to further support Grace guided her as she ran and was elected to the vestry. Her tenure on the vestry spanned four terms for a total of twelve years. Charlotte worked collaboratively with fellow vestry members to develop and implement strategic plans that aligned with the church's vision and served on search committees when the church sought new rectors. Perhaps Charlotte's proudest contribution to her beloved Grace family is her role as chair of the Stewardship Committee. Understanding the vital role financial stability plays within a church, Charlotte remained steadfast in fostering a vibrant and supportive church community that would enable Grace's ability to thrive and have an indelible impact on those in need beyond its walls. She continues to act in an advisory capacity to the Stewardship Committee as it transitions to new leadership.

In her retirement years, Charlotte's love for travel led her to explore South Africa, China, Australia, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Peru, Wales, Argentina, Brazil, and Alaska. An advanced bridge player, Charlotte is a member of the Metropolitan Bridge Unit and has earned the status of "Diamond". Each year, she follows the tournament trail and has played bridge competitively in locations such as Tennessee, North Carolina, and Atlantic City.

Charlotte has one daughter, Nicole Graham-Victor, who lives in Atlanta, GA with her husband, Jean, and Charlotte's two grandsons, Tristan (13 y.o.) and Shane (11 y.o.). She loves traveling south to spend time with her family throughout the year and being an integral part of her grandsons' lives.



Carole Lashley


Carole Lashley is a compassionate and resourceful individual who has used her talents and abilities to make a difference in the lives of others.

She was born in Brooklyn, New York, as the younger daughter of immigrant parents, Irena M. Niles of South Africa and England and Conrad W. Niles of Barbados. Growing up with entrepreneurial parents, she learned the importance of hard work, innovation, embracing diverse cultures, and supporting others.

Carole always had a natural inclination to help others. As a young person, she discovered her potential as a reading mentor. She worked at Epiphany Library while attending New York University. During that time, she realized that she had a knack for research and became interested in pursuing a degree in library science. Circumstances thereafter would take her to Rome, NY where she worked as a library assistant in the art department of the Utica Public Library. She enjoyed working with the materials and people. In her spare time she studied at the Munson Williams-Proctor Institute of Art.

Relocating to California, Carole would go on to volunteer as a teacher's assistant with the Head Start Program. There she worked with many underprivileged children who were food insecure and lacked care. This rewarding experience reignited her passion for working with children. When she returned to New York, Carole would be an active PTA member and volunteer at her children's elementary schools. Her assistance in a bus strike and work at two schools in the school district led to a certificate of commendation from the schools Superintendent.

After some time as a stay-at-home mom, Carole returned to work as a Marketing Intelligence Librarian for Simmonds Precision, an Aerospace Corporation. This marked the beginning of her transition to



different fields of work, such as banking, finance and accounting. She held positions at various organizations, including American Savings Bank, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Rabobank and KPMG.

Throughout her professional journey, Carole never lost her passion for helping others. She volunteered as a reading mentor at PS 59 in Manhattan and tutored an adult coworker who later obtained his GED under her tutelage.

Carole retired from KPMG after 12 years of service, but she did not stop making a difference. She continued to volunteer as a reading mentor under JCY Westchester Community Partners, assisting children at the Alice Grady School in Elmsford with their course work. She also participated in a summer reading program for a decade, helping nearly 100 children improve their confidence and literacy. Carole finds joy and fulfillment in being able to help others achieve their goals.

These days Carole has more time to dedicate to personal interests and church activities. She joined Grace church over 40 years ago and has been involved in various programs over the years, such as:

- A Fashion show in the 1980s
- ECW (Episcopal Church Women)
- The Welcome Committee
- Church Fairs
- Grounds/Garden Maintenance
- Chair-person for the Homecoming Barbecue
- Christmas Party
- Soup Kitchen – providing foods and support to those
- In need
- Two Picnics at Saxon Woods & Ridge Road Park

Each of these groups contributes to the strong fabric of Grace church. Each group fostered strong friendships, and good hard work.

Carole believes that although we may not always have the energy or the time to do everything, when we share an idea, help others and reach out to our neighbors and friends these small gestures are meaningful and impact the lives of others.



ELAINE REID

Elaine Anastasia Stanley was born Kingston, Jamaica; she was baptized in the Catholic church. She and her brother Keith grew up with her wonderful grandparents in Walkerswood, Jamaica. At age 8 she and her older brother Keith, moved back to Kingston. Elaine had a very large extended family and they all lived together in a very large home. She grew up surrounded by loving aunts, uncles and cousins. She remained in Kingston and attended St. Joseph's Catholic Convent All-Girls School.

While growing up she was in a school musical group and she participated in concerts around Kingston. After graduating from Lincoln College, she worked at the Jamaican Social Welfare Office, craft shop. The craft shop sold hand made products to tourists. She did such a good job that she was promoted to managing the shop. In 1958 she had her daughter Lorraine. In 1962 she immigrated from Jamaica to the USA where she worked at White Plains Hospital as a nursing assistant. She married Gladstone Reid in 1964 and they had a son Bryan. After two years as a nursing assistant, she became a unit clerk. She served in a supervisory role as well as a unit clerk trainer. She was loved by all staff while working at White Plains Hospital and retired in 1996. Gladstone also worked at White Plains Hospital as a supervisor of the printshop.

In 1976 the family joined Grace Episcopal Church where she was a member of the ECW. She has helped with all types of events in the church. Gladstone sang in the choir and Bryan was a junior then a senior counselor for the Grace Church summer camp. Lorraine and Yves' son Andrew was baptized at Grace Church in 1994. Elaine and Gladstone Reid have lived the immigrant's dream of coming to America and making a better life for herself and her family.

REST IN PEACE

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort; Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



ELSIE G. ADAMS



CARMEN GREENIDGE

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