



# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*The Diocese of New Jersey*

Plainfield, NJ 07060

A place where everybody is somebody!

## *Full of Grace*

*The Grace Church Plainfield Monthly Newsletter*

*May 2016*

Our vision: To provide a community for all in the service of Jesus Christ

Our mission: Grace Church Plainfield is a welcoming and affirming Christian community characterized by diversity, worshiping and praising God in the Anglican tradition and proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed in active discipleship.

[www.graceplainfield.org](http://www.graceplainfield.org) FaceBook: [Grace Episcopal Church - Plainfield, NJ](https://www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurch-Plainfield-NJ)

*Grace Church: A Place Where Everybody is Somebody!*

### WORSHIP WITH US

**Sundays** - 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist in All Saints' Chapel; 9 a.m. Adult Forum; 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music

**Wednesdays** - Noon: Adoration and Healing Mass in All Saints' Chapel

Happy Mother's Day  
to all the selfless women  
who inspire, motivate and  
remind us to be a better  
person every single day.

### PASTORAL LETTER FROM FATHER GIDEON

Dear Parishioners,

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Acts 2:1*

Sunday, May 15 is the Feast of Pentecost, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples of Jesus Christ, as recorded in Acts of the Apostles. The word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek word 'pentekostos,' which means "fifty." It comes from the ancient Christian expression 'pentekoste hemera,' which means "fiftieth day." In the Old Testament, Pentecost was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (*Shavuot* in Hebrew). In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter, and it concludes the resurrection experience.

The experience of Pentecost is one of unity and joy that transcends all ethnic and linguistic differences and is an expression of God's universal love. We remember particularly how the disciples were gathered in fear and confusion as they hid in the Upper Room under lock and key. At that moment, they lacked a sense of outward mission and purpose, but as soon as the Holy Spirit descended on them in the form of tongues of fire, great transformation occurred: the disciples were transformed, courage replaced fear, understanding replaced confusion, and they gained a clear and deep sense of purpose.

Their experience of Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection was truly Good News and it needed to be shared. Their focus turned outward toward all those they were called to evangelize, and they never returned to the life of hiding under lock and key. Pentecost is the moment of empowering. Empowering for evangelization must be the first focus for Grace Church.

Evangelization is a central way we incorporate the spiritual works of Christ into our lives and in the activities of our Parish. Grace Church exists to evangelize, to share the Good News with all people. Forasmuch as we are called to do many things in this Parish of ours, our primary mandate given by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit is to evangelize.

Here are three ways each person who sees Grace Church as her or his spiritual home can embark on Pentecostal evangelism:

1. Live as a witness. Live out your faith through good actions and virtuous deeds in and around your communities.
2. Be not dismayed or afraid of who you are in Christ. Share your faith in an explicit way, describing and testifying to all and sundry how the Lord is working in your life.
3. Invite others to experience Christ's saving love by walking with you to Grace – *"the place where everybody is somebody"* – on any given Sunday or weekly spiritual program.

As I have already mentioned, the experience of Pentecost is one of unity and joy that transcends all ethnic and linguistic differences and is an expression of God's universal love. In keeping with this, I call your attention to the recent devastations caused by the earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador. Our Pentecost experience has to be extended and demonstrated in a practical ways towards the survivors of the devastation in those countries, especially Ecuador in which we have two companion Dioceses – Ecuador Central and Ecuador Litoral. According to *The New York Times*, "the earthquake that shook Ecuador . . . has proved to be the most destructive in nearly seven decades and has caused the worst humanitarian catastrophe here in memory."

How can the good people of Grace and their associates help? Kindly make a donation, no matter how big or small. Please write your check to Grace Episcopal Church and put "Ecuador" in the memo section. Mail it to Grace at 600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060; or put it in the Sunday collection plate. We will collect the checks and then remit to the Office of the Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey who will then hand it over the Bishop of Ecuador Litoral, one of our Companion Dioceses whose Diocese is in the center of the devastation.

May our great and ever blissful God bless you real good as you participate in this year's Pentecost experience!

Right Onward!

Your Priest and Friend,



Fr. Gideon A. Uzomechina, D.Min

## **PEOPLE OF GRACE**

### **Prayers for Health**

Please continue to pray for our friends and loved ones who are listed on our prayer list. Please continue to pray for Maureen Johnson as she continues treatment for breast cancer; and for Barbara Nichols who recently finished her last round of chemotherapy for breast cancer. Please add Patrick Andrew to your personal prayer list as he undergoes chemotherapy treatment.

# Birth day Blessings

May birthday blessings and prayers from the Grace Church family to:

- ✚ **Bob Carlson**, May 3
- ✚ **Barbara Nichols**, May 5
- ✚ **Matthew Onorato**, May 7
- ✚ **Father Gideon**, May 9
- ✚ **Davion and Donovan Blair** on May 12
- ✚ **Albany Uzomechina**, who turns 3-years-old on May 13
- ✚ **Precious Aneke** turns 2-years-old on May 14
- ✚ **Mary Fagg**, May 14
- ✚ **Genevieve Frank**, May 19
- ✚ **Gina Intsiful**, May 25
- ✚ **Vince Chiumento**, May 28



**And Happy Anniversary** wishes to **Holly & Jason Algeo** on May 20; and **Patricia & Michael Baptiste** on May 30.



Our condolences and deepest sympathy to Donnelle Douglas and her family on the recent death of her nephew.

## 2016 Graduates To Be Recognized at Special Service on June 26

Do you have a graduate in the family? If so, let us know so he or she can be recognized at a special service honoring 2016 graduates on June 26. Please send the student's name, the name and city location of the school the student is graduating from, the name and city location of the school the student will attend in the fall and, if a college graduate, the degree received. Please send that information to [karen@graceplainfield.org](mailto:karen@graceplainfield.org).

## GRACE HAPPENINGS

### Grace Church Starts A Community Garden

By Deacon Ted Moore

In one of its newest projects, Grace Church is laying the groundwork for a community garden that will provide fresh vegetables for Grace's Kitchen soup kitchen and for the neighboring community.

So far the Grace Garden Committee, which includes Dennis Bazzey, Anita Griffith, Prince Hinds, Lawrence Ishmael and Barbara Nichols, has tilled and prepared the soil and prepared beds for the vegetables, which were scheduled to be planted around Mothers' Day, weather permitting.



Rogation Sunday, May 1, was the date planned for the dedication of the garden. However, inclement weather caused a reschedule until May 22.

The Grace Community Garden will help local children and adults connect with the experience of growing fresh produce, leading to improved nutrition as well as environmental education, recreation, community service opportunities and neighborhood beautification. The Committee would also welcome donations to help offset the costs associated with creating the garden, such as a compost bin, fencing, building raised organic garden beds, signs, seeds and seedlings.

### Sunday School Children Create Crafts to Welcome the Risen Christ

By Lynnette Taitt, Superintendent, Children's Sunday School Program

The children enjoyed being with their families and friends in church at the celebration of Easter Sunday. They also had a wonderful time afterwards at the Easter Egg Hunt and getting Easter baskets filled with toys, candy and other goodies that were donated by the Women of Grace and other members of Grace church.

In April, the children learned three lessons: (1) Jesus is Alive! (2) The Risen Jesus Comes to Dinner and (3) Jesus Helps Catch Fish. The three lessons taught them about the visits the resurrected Jesus made to the disciples and helped them understand that Jesus was actually alive as demonstrated by his appearances in the flesh and when he shared dinner with his disciples.

They also created place mats and paintings to illustrate these lessons.



Lesson - Jesus Is Alive: The children created beautiful flower and butterfly sun catcher paintings to represent new life for the season of Easter.



Craft created by the children to illustrate the Lesson that Jesus Helps Catch Fish

The Grace Church Children’s Sunday School is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday except the fourth Sunday, when the children join their families for the service in church. The program is geared for boys and girls from 4- to 14-years-old. After the bible lesson of the day is read and discussed, the children have a craft activity that relates to the lesson.

### **Women of Grace Hospitality Committee Launches Celebration Sundays**

By Brenda Loncke, Chair, Women of Grace Hospitality Committee

Beginning this month, coffee hour on the first Sunday of every month will be set aside as a time to celebrate with Grace Church members who have birthdays and anniversaries or other special events during the month. So that it will not be a burden on any one member, each celebrant will be asked to bring something to share at coffee hour – pastries, cookies, homemade foods, beverages, etc. The Hospitality Committee of The Women of Grace, which is responsible for scheduling Coffee Hour, will contact you during your birthday or anniversary month to find out what you wish to bring. If you would like to celebrate any other special event, such as a graduation, please get in touch with me so that I can put you on the Coffee Hour schedule.

### **Update Your Info for the New Grace Parish Directory**

We’re still in the pre-production stages of planning our new directory and we want to make sure that we have accurate information for all Grace Church members. Therefore, please fill in the information below and copy and paste it into an email to send to [office@graceplainfield.org](mailto:office@graceplainfield.org). You also can print and clip the form and put it in the collection plate, leave it in the office or give it to Karen Moore.

<p>I am a member of Grace Church: Y__ N__ My spouse is a member of Grace Church Y__ N__</p> <p>My name: _____</p> <p>My spouse’s name: _____</p> <p>My home address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>My home phone number: _____</p> <p>My email address: _____</p> <p>My spouse’s email address: _____</p>
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My cell number: \_\_\_\_\_ My spouse's cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

My birthday: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ My spouse's birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren)'s name(s) and birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am/My spouse is involved in the following ministries

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Still Time to Schedule a Photo Session for the New Grace Pictorial Directory

If you haven't done so already, there still is time to schedule an appointment for a professional photography session. The photographer will be at Grace to take photos May 11, 12 and 13 (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.; and on Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

There is no cost to have your photo taken to be included in the new pictorial directory. Plus, you will receive a free 8X10 copy of your portrait. If you wish, you will be able to buy additional prints for family and friends.

Please sign up today! To make your appointment, go to [www.graceplainfield.org](http://www.graceplainfield.org) and clicking on the link for the new photo directory. Or, clicking the link below:

<https://instant-scheduling.com/sch.php?kn=763&typId=54923&step=2>

Allow about an hour for your appointment. You will be able to see proofs of your photographs immediately on the photographer's computer.

## Students in PCO Afterschool Program Sew Clothes for African Children and Learn about Entrepreneurship

By Patience Smith



The Plainfield Community Outreach (PCO) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) afterschool program is happy to announce that we have started a Sewing Club at Cedarbrook School that will be making dresses and shorts for little girls and little boys in Africa. This is collaboration between Grace Church member Barbara Nichols, coordinator of the Women of Grace Crafts Committee, and the



Plainfield Community Outreach's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center afterschool program. The students will be working on this project the remainder of the school year.

On April 1, the afterschool program partnered with Harry Watson, head of the Grace Church Youth Ministry, and the brothers of Groove Phi Groove, Social Fellowship Inc. to host "Boys Solidarity Day." The boys who participated spent the day receiving fitness coaching, learning to tie ties, playing video games, learning about different career options, and just enjoyed a little 'guy talk.'

Chef D, head of Grace's Kitchen soup kitchen, led a cooking and business workshop to teach the students in the afterschool programs at Cedarbrook and Clinton Elementary school about healthy

eating and about entrepreneurship. The students loved the salads that they made and we are looking forward to two upcoming healthy eating parent workshops that Chef D will give in May at Grace Church.

The afterschool students at both sites participate in an Earth Day park clean up at Cedarbrook and Greenbrook Parks. Because of our involvement in this effort our program will receive a \$300 grant that will be used towards our end of the year celebration.

## Buildings and Grounds Get Spring/Summer Spruce-Up

By Trevor King, Senior Warden

The Buildings and Grounds Committee at Grace will undertake three projects for this spring and summer: sprucing up the grounds around the church, beautification of the entrances to the church, and waterproofing and sealing sections of the Parish Hall.



### SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, May 7	Brenda Loncke, chair of Hospitality and vice president of The Women of Grace, is honored by the Guyana American Heritage Foundation for exemplary community service at a black tie awards dinner at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark. Tickets are \$65 each.
May 11-14	Appointments for professional photography session for new Grace Church pictorial directory.
Sunday, May 15	Grace Church choir sings Evensong, Grace Church, 4 p.m. Reception follows at 4:30.
Friday, May 20	Feast of St. Joan of Arc fundraiser for the Youth Ministry. 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. Grace Church. Adults \$10. Children \$5.
Sunday, June 5	National Celebration of Guyana
Sunday, July 9	National Celebration for the United States of America
Sunday, September 11	National Celebration for Trinidad
Saturday, December 10	Annual Christmas Fellowship Evening Dinner Dance, Parish Hall, Grace Church

## NOTES FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

April 18, 2016

### From the Bishop

#### A Message from Bishop Stokes on the Earthquake in Ecuador

##### A Prayer for the Victims of the Earthquake in Ecuador

*Holy God, source of life, lover of souls, out of the depths we call to you; in the face of anguish and sorrow, we lift the cries of our distress and implore you to show mercy upon those who are suffering from the destruction of the earthquake in Ecuador. We pray for those who have died and for their loved ones who grieve. asking you to hold them in the arms of your love; we pray for those who have been injured in body, mind or spirit and ask you to heal them; we pray for those who are homeless and wandering, for families torn asunder and ask you to shelter them. Strengthen the hands and hearts of those who assist in relief efforts and grant us all firm resolve to stand with our neighbors who are in need, to love them and to offer our generous support of them in this their time of trouble; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen*

Dear People of the Diocese of New Jersey,

*“....weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:15*

Our brothers and sisters in Ecuador have suffered a devastating earthquake. Ecuador Litoral was most affected. More than 270 people have been killed. The death toll is expected to rise. More than 2,500 were injured. There has been widespread damage, especially in some of the coastal areas and cities. Through our Companion Diocese Committee, we are already taking steps by which we as a diocese can respond.

Members of the Companion Diocese Committee have already been in touch with people on the ground in Ecuador. The report is very sad. Paul Murphy, Co-Chair of the Companion Diocese Committee with The Rev. Cn. Pedro Guzman, has contacted The Reverend Glenda McQueen, Episcopal Church Officer for South America and Caribbean Mission so that we can work with The Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief and Development in a coordinated way.

From my own experience in South Florida, I know how important it is to work with the local bishop in instances like this. We will work closely with Bishop Alfredo Morante and the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral who will assess the needs and help us know how we can be of the most assistance and support.

The Companion Diocese Committee will be meeting this Wednesday as they begin to outline how we can best serve our brothers and sisters in our companion dioceses swiftly, effectively and over the long haul, just as so many responded to our needs following Super Storm Sandy. I will be joining them for this meeting. We will communicate with you so that you may be generous in your aid.

Please pray for the people of Ecuador, for Bishop Alfredo Morante and our brothers and sisters in Ecuador Litoral and for Bishop Victor Scantlebury and our brothers and sisters in Ecuador Central. I offer a prayer I wrote following Hurricane Katrina for your use.

Blessings and peace,

[DONATE NOW](#)



The Right Reverend William H. Stokes, D.D.  
XII Bishop of New Jersey

## **MAY 31 IS THE FEAST DAY OF THE VISITATION OF MARY**



The **Visitation** of Mary is the visit of Mary with her cousin Elizabeth as recorded in Luke 1:39–56. At the time of the visit, Mary is pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth is pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary left Nazareth immediately after the Annunciation and went “into the hill country...into a city of Judah” (Luke 1:39) to attend to her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was in the sixth month before Mary came (Luke 1:36). Mary stayed three months, and most scholars believe she stayed for the birth of John.

Given the prevailing cultural traditions and for safety and security reasons, it is probable that Joseph accompanied Mary to Judah then returned to Nazareth, and came again after three months to bring his wife home. The apparition of the angel, mentioned in Matthew 1:19-25, may have taken place during that three-month period to end the tormenting doubts Joseph had about Mary’s pregnancy.

In Catholicism, it is held that the purpose of this visit was to bring divine grace to both Elizabeth and her unborn child. Even though he was still in his mother’s womb, John became aware of the presence of Christ, and leapt for joy as he was cleansed from original sin and filled with divine

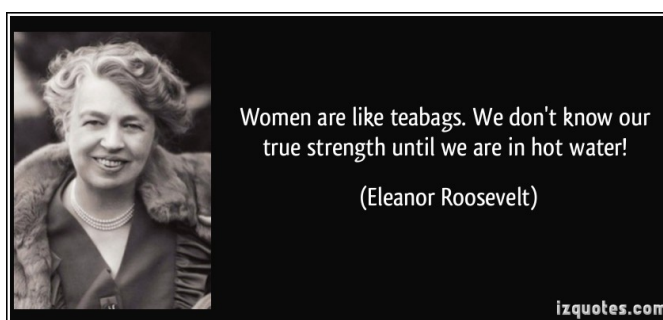
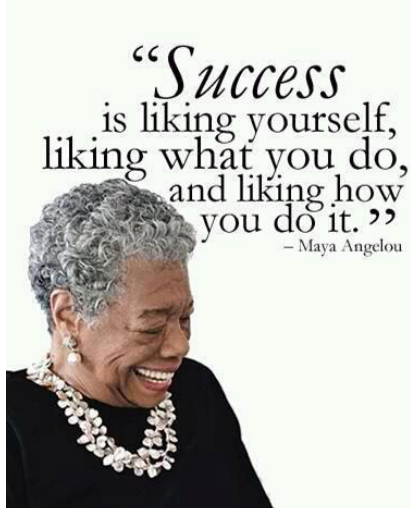
grace. Elizabeth also responded and recognized the presence of Jesus, thus Mary exercised her function as mediator between God and humanity for the first time:

*And she [Elizabeth] spoke out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed [art] thou among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of thy womb. And whence [is] this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed [is] she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. (Luke 1:42–45)*

It is also at this point, in response to Elizabeth’s remark, that Mary proclaims the *Magnificat* (*My soul doth magnify the Lord*), Luke 1:46–55, for which reason this canticle had traditionally been reserved for this feast day.

In the past, the Feast Day of the Visitation was celebrated on July 2, the day after the end of the octave following the feast of the birth of John the Baptist, who was still in his mother’s womb at the time of the Visitation. When Pope Paul VI reorganized the liturgical year in 1969, the Feast Day was moved to May 31, “between the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25) and that of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24), so that it would harmonize better with the Gospel story.” The July 2 date is still observed by Traditionalist Catholics who use a pre-1970 calendar and by Anglicans who use the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* (in some Anglican traditions it is merely a commemoration rather than a feast day).

### THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH



Do you have news to share? Is your birthday or anniversary coming up? Send a note to [karen@graceplainfield.org](mailto:karen@graceplainfield.org) to include it in Full of Grace.