

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:00 am

### ☿cents Clothing Thrift Shop

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Choir Rehearsal

Monday, 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm

Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9pm

Sunday, 9:45 am

### Communications

Last Tuesday, 6:30 pm

### ESL Classes

Monday & Wednesday

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### First Friday Dinners

2/2, 3/2

### Garden of Grace Committee

As needed

### Grace's Kitchen

December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

11:30 am-1:00 pm

### Healing Service

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Eucharist

### Health Ministry

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 12:15 pm

### Investment Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of June &

December

### Men's Guild

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 12:15 pm

### Sunday School

10:00 am every Sunday except the  
4th Sunday

### Starfish Food Collection

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

### Stewardship

1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7:30 pm

### Vestry

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30pm

### Women of Grace

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 12:15 pm

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE December 3-10, 2017

*Please also check the website, display tables, and bulletin board for more information about other activities in which you might want to participate.*

***Parish Office Hours: Monday– Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm***

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:00 am            | Holy Eucharist Rite I, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>                           |
| 9:00 am - 10:00 am | Adult Forum, <i>Grace Lounge</i>  |
| 9:45 am            | Grace Choir Rehearsal, <i>Chancel</i>                                     |
| 10:00 am           | Lighthouse Chapel International,<br><i>All Saints Chapel</i>              |
| 10:00 am           | Children's Sunday School, <i>Classrooms Upstairs</i>                      |
| 10:30 am           | Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II, <i>Church</i>                              |
| 12:15 pm           | Festive Reception: Brenda Loncke 's 70th Birthday,<br><i>Knickle Hall</i> |
| 12:30 pm –2:30 pm  | Focus Community Church,<br><i>All Saints Chapel</i>                       |
| 4:00 pm            | Friendship World Outreach Church,<br><i>All Saints Chapel</i>             |

### Monday, December 18

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

7:30 pm - 8:15 pm

ESL, *Classrooms Upstairs*  
Choir Rehearsal, *Music Room*

### Wednesday, December 20

Noon

7:00 pm

7:30 pm

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Eucharist with Service of Healing,  
*All Saints Chapel*  
ESL, *Classrooms Upstairs*  
Vestry, *Meeting Room*  
Choir Rehearsal, *Music Room*

### Saturday, December 9

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

☿cents Clothing Thrift Shop, *Parish House,*  
*lower level*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:00 am            | Holy Eucharist Rite I, <i>All Saints Chapel</i>                           |
| 9:00 am - 10:00 am | Adult Forum, <i>Grace Lounge</i>  |
| 9:45 am            | Grace Choir Rehearsal, <i>Chancel</i>                                     |
| 10:00 am           | Lighthouse Chapel International,<br><i>All Saints Chapel</i>              |
| 10:00 am           | Children's Sunday School, <i>Classrooms Upstairs</i>                      |
| 10:30 am           | Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II, <i>Church</i>                              |
| 12:15 pm           | Festive Reception: Brenda Loncke 's 70th Birthday,<br><i>Knickle Hall</i> |
| 12:15 pm           | Men's Guild. <i>Knickle Hall</i>  |
| 12:15 pm           | Women of Grace, <i>Knickle Hall</i>                                       |
| 12:30 pm –2:30 pm  | Focus Community Church,<br><i>All Saints Chapel</i>                       |
| 4:00 pm            | Friendship World Outreach Church,<br><i>All Saints Chapel</i>             |
| 10:00 pm           | Christmas Eve Carols and Frist Eucharist of<br>Christmas, <i>Church</i>   |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please take this bulletin home since it has important information about upcoming events*

### **Christmas Eve Carols & First Eucharist of Christmas 10:00 p.m.**

The Church and Parish Office will be closed  
Christmas Day until December 28.

- Please place your 2Christmas Offering form in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office no later than December 19. Please be generous with your Christmas offering. You can ask one of the ushers for a form if you do not have one.
- If you have not sent in your 2018 pledge, please put your blue pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the parish office. Please prayerfully consider what you will be able to pledge to Grace in 2018.
- Please contact Deacon Ted at 973-214-0055 or [ted@graceplainfield.org](mailto:ted@graceplainfield.org) to add or remove names from the Sunday prayer list so the Health Ministries team can provide pastoral care.
- Grace's Kitchen, a program of Plainfield Community Outreach, Grace Church's 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, serves lunch to those in our community who are hungry and in need. It is open the last five days of each month (except Sundays) and depends on the support of volunteers. Please consider joining the volunteers to help serve our guests and make them feel welcome. For more information, please contact Karen Moore at 908-322-1754; or Chef Marvin Daniels at 908-400-7727. The next service dates are December 26-30. **Grace's volunteer day is Thursday, December 28.**
- Grace Church collects non-perishable food for Starfish Food Pantry the first Sunday of every month. You can bring your contribution that day or to the parish office any day during the month.
- The sanctuary candle chart is on the wall by the Parish Office. If you would like to give a sanctuary candle, please write your name and the name of the one to be memorialized in the appropriate space. The candle will burn for the week in memory of your loved one. Suggested donation for the sanctuary candle is \$10.
- The flower chart is on the wall by the Parish Office. If you would like to dedicate flowers, pick an open date and write your name and the name of the one to be memorialized in the appropriate space. The office will confirm with you the week before. The cost of altar flowers is \$50.

#### **Next Sunday's Reading: The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**First Lesson:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

**Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26**

**Second Lesson:** Romans 16:25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

## Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message 2017

*Have a blessed Christmas, a wonderful New Year,  
and go out and make music in the heart of the world.*

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul says,  
*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has  
passed away, behold, the new is come.*

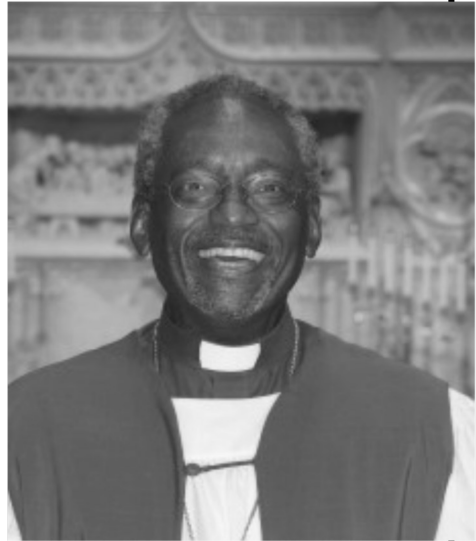
At a point in that passage, St. Paul says, "God was in  
Christ, reconciling the world to Himself," and he also says  
at another point in the same passage, "and we have been  
given the ministry of reconciliation."

Have you ever gone to the movies or read a story or a  
novel, and the novel starts with the end, so you know  
where the story ends, but then the rest of the story or the  
novel is actually the story behind the story. We know about Christmas. We know about  
Mary. We know about Joseph. We know about the angels singing Gloria in excelsis deo.  
We know from our childhood the animals in the stable. We know of the magi who come  
from afar, arriving around Epiphany, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We  
know of the angels singing in the heavens, and the star that shown above them. Therein is  
the story.

But the story behind the story is what St. Paul was talking about. God was in Christ  
reconciling the world to himself, and Jesus has now given us that same ministry of reconcili-  
ation. God was reconciling the world to himself by becoming one of us. The divine became  
human. God entered history. Eternity became part of time. God was reconciling the world to  
himself by actually living it himself. In Jesus, God came among us to show us the way, to be  
reconciled with the God who has created us all and everything that is. And God has likewise  
come in the person of Jesus, to show us how to be reconciled with each other, as children of  
the one God who is the Creator of us all. That's the story behind Christmas.

God is showing us the Way to become God's children, and as God's children, brothers and  
sisters of each other. God is showing us in Jesus how to become God's family and how to  
change, and build, and make a world where everybody is a part of that family. Where chil-  
dren don't go to bed hungry. Where no one has to be lonely. Where justice is real for all and  
where love is the ultimate law.

Know there is a story behind the story, and it's a story worth singing about, and giving thanks for, and then  
living.



One of my favorite writers, the late Howard Thurman, composed a poem many years ago about Christmas, and he says it probably better than I:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
Then the work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace to others,  
And alas, to make music in the heart.*

The story behind the story is that God so loved the world, and so loves you, and so loves me.

Have a blessed Christmas, a wonderful New Year, and go out and make music in the heart of the world.

**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church**





# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*The Diocese of New Jersey*

600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060

908-756-1520 [www.graceplainfield.org](http://www.graceplainfield.org)

Twitter: @plainfieldgrace    Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church—Plainfield, NJ

## CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Joyce Scheyer, *Priest-in-Charge*

The Reverend Theodore E. Moore, *Deacon*

Andrew Kilkenny, *Director of Music*

John Taitt, *Treasurer*

Noel Taitt, *Assistant Treasurer*

Vince Chiumento, *Parish Office Administrator*



## WARDENS AND VESTRY

### Wardens

Lawrence Ishmael (2017), Jason Algeo (2018)

### Vestry

Carol Taitt (2017), Conrad Roberts (2017)

Brenda Loncke (2018), Winsley Rudder (2018), Selma Cato (2018)

Trevor Forbes (2019), *Clerk*; Ivor Blair (2019); Amanda Garcia (2019)

### Convention Delegates (2017)

Ken and Victoria Blenman, Gloria King

### Alternate Delegates (2017)

Jason and Holly Algeo, Trevor King

## PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.



Karen Moore, *Board President*

Patience Smith, *Project Director, 21st Century After School Program*

Marvin Daniels, *Coordinator, Grace's Kitchen*

The Reverend Theodore Moore, *Coordinator, ESL Program*

Parish Office: 908-756-1520    908-756-0175 (fax)    [office@graceplainfield.org](mailto:office@graceplainfield.org)