



Celebrating 115 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – January 2017

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Vicar's Vision

As the New Year began, I pulled out my story folder. This is the one where I collect phrases, words, and stories that I may or may not use for sermon starters or anecdotes in the homily. I remembered that I had used a story about a woman in an African village one Sunday and thought I would share it with you in its entirety.

It is called, "They're Singing Your Song."

"When a woman in a certain African village knows that she is pregnant, she goes out into the wilderness with a few friends and together they pray and meditate until they hear the song of the child. They recognize that every soul has its own vibration that expresses its unique flavor and purpose. When the women attune to the song, they sing it out loud. Then they return to the tribe and teach it to everyone else.

When the child is born, the community gathers and sings the child's song to him or her. Later, when the child enters education, the village gathers and chants the child's song. When the child passes through the initiation to adulthood, the people again come together and sing. At the time of marriage, the person hears their song. Finally, when the soul is about to pass

from this world, the family and friends gather at the person's bed, just as they did at their birth, and sing the person to the next life.

To the African tribe there is another occasion upon which the villagers sing to the child. If at any time during his or her life, the person commits a crime or aberrant social act, the individual is called to the center of the village and the people in the community form a circle around them. Then they sing their song to them.

The tribe recognizes that the correction for antisocial behavior is not punishment; it is love and the remembrance of identity. When you recognize your song, you have no desire or need to do anything that would hurt another.

A friend is someone who knows your song and sings it to you when you have forgotten it. Those who love you are not fooled by mistakes you have made or the dark images you hold about yourself. They remember your beauty when you feel ugly; your wholeness when you are broken; your innocence when you feel guilty; and your purpose when you feel confused.

You may not have grown up in an African

tribe that sings your song to you at crucial life transitions, but life is always reminding you when you are in tune with yourself and when you are not. When you feel good, what you are doing matches your song, and when you feel awful it doesn't. In the end we shall all recognize our song and sing it well. You may feel a little warbly at the moment, but so have all the great singers. Just keep singing and you'll find your way home."

I hope you enjoy this story and perhaps tuck it away in your 'story folder.' For me this story speaks about personal and community accountability. It speaks of hope, forgiveness, and love. So keep singing to yourself, each other, and creation (the Creator).

Abundant blessing for a new and
wonder-filled year,
Pastor Jane+



THE EPISCOPAL HANDBOOK

Five Inspiring Women Episcopalians

Eleanor Roosevelt

One of the most admired women of the twentieth century, she was First Lady of the United States from 1933-1945. Known as a reformer, diplomat, and humanitarian, she was a cradle Episcopalian, making her church home at St. James' in Hyde Park, New York. Along with raising five children and supporting her husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, she was an outspoken advocate of equal rights, child welfare, and labor reforms. She served as the U.S. delegate to the United Nations and played a

key role in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Sandra Day O'Connor

This esteemed jurist was the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, Justice O'Connor served the high court for 24 years before retiring. During this time she was consistently voted one of America's most powerful women. Her gender restricted opportunities to work as an attorney following graduation from Stanford University's law school, so she turned to public service in California, then Germany, then in her home state of Arizona. She was elected judge in Maricopa County in 1975. Her professionalism and fairness made her one of the most respected justices in recent memory.

Pamela Pauly Chinnis

Chinnis was the first woman elected President of the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies. She was elected in 1991, and re-elected in 1994 and 1997, for three three-year terms. Her presidency, coming only 21 years after the first woman deputy was granted seat, voice, and vote in the House, marked a major milestone in the leadership of lay women in the highest levels of Episcopal Church governance. She was a staunch supporter of the role of the House of Deputies, repeatedly reminding its members that it was the "senior" house (having existed prior to there being any bishops) and that "Laity, clergy, and bishops have an equal voice in determining policy, establishing our legal framework, and maintaining a living liturgical life." In her hometown of Washington, DC, she worshiped and served in numerous leadership roles at Church of the Epiphany and served on the cathedral chapter of Washington National Cathedral.

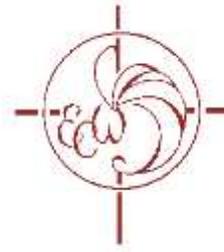
Barbara Harris

The first woman to be consecrated bishop not only in the Episcopal Church, but in the Anglican Communion, Harris came to ministry as former head of public relations for the Sun Oil Company. Long active in civil rights campaigns, she participated in freedom rides and marches in the South in the 1960's. After discerning a call to ministry, she was ordained priest in 1980. She served as publisher and later board member of the Episcopal Church Publishing Company's progressive magazine, *The Witness*. She was consecrated as a bishop suffragan in 1989 in the Diocese of Massachusetts, where she served for 13 years until her retirement.

Katherine Jefferts Schori

She was the first woman Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the first female primate in the Anglican Communion. Her leadership emphasized advocacy for the poor and marginalized. She was a strong proponent of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and an outspoken advocate on environmental issues. During her time in office, Jefferts Schori was challenged in keeping both conservative and liberal elements of the church together. She has a background in biology and oceanography, and is a licensed pilot. As bishop of Nevada, she piloted her plane around the diocese for visitations.¹

¹ The Episcopal Handbook, Revised Edition. Morehouse Publishing, 2015



ECW NEWS AND NOTES *from Jeannie Palin*

Thank you to all of you for your contributions, which helped us send out our year-end donations.

Local Organizations: \$125 each

Greene Alliance
Youth Development Council
Greene Care Clinic
Greene County Ministerial Assoc.
Scholarship Fund

ECW Diocesan Objectives: \$100 each

GraceInside (Ecumenical Prison Ministry)
Human Trafficking
Viva Voce
Hope for Humanity

We also sent \$50 each to Jackson-Feild Home and The Boy's Home.

Epiphany Party at Julie's on Friday, January 6th at 6 PM!

What to bring: A dish to share and, for our gift exchange this year, please bring something that you have made yourself. It can be something you've knitted, baked, painted, cards, jam, or some other lovely item you have made. Even if you don't bring anything you are still welcome to attend. I hope you will be able to join the celebration! I am looking forward to seeing you all there to enjoy the fun, the food, the festivities, and especially the fellowship! If you need directions please call Julie at 985-6902. Drinks will be provided.

Now that the Christmas season is winding down, we enter the season of Epiphany (from the ancient Greek ἐπιφάνεια, *epiphaneia*, "manifestation or striking

appearance", an experience of sudden and striking realization). Generally the term Epiphany is used to describe scientific breakthrough, religious or philosophical discoveries, but it can apply in any situation in which an enlightening realization allows a problem or situation to be understood from a new and deeper perspective. May your Epiphany bring you to a new and deeper understanding of the Divine. And may our New Year together be filled with Joy!

Due to church schedules and parishioner vacations during Christmas, **The Saturday Neighborhood Brunch**, which is held in the Parish Hall usually on the 5th Saturdays during the year, was cancelled for December. Instead, we will be holding it this month, on Saturday, **January 28th** from **10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Volunteers are needed as shoppers, cooks, servers, set-up & clean-up crews, and welcoming hosts. Please join us in making this another successful gathering. It's a great time to catch up with our neighbors in the community. Look for the sign-up cards in the pews on Sunday.



On Sunday, December 25th, Pastor Jane held a **Christmas Day** service at **The Renaissance Assisted Living Center**. The residents not only got the opportunity to receive Holy Communion, but also enjoyed singing several Christmas hymns. Thank you to Rev. Grace (keyboard), Mary Hogge (LEM), and Liam & Elizabeth Yeaton (Pastor Jane's grandchildren) for their part. Everyone was also led in a round of *Jingle Bells* by Liam on the keyboard.



Box Tops for Education

Just a reminder about the "little yellow box" on the table at the Ford Avenue entrance. Please clip out your coupons from participating products and drop them in the box to support our local schools. Once you start looking, you'll see these little pink coupons everywhere! You can get a complete list of the products online at boxtops4education.com. Each box top coupon is worth 10¢ and each eligible school participating in the Box Tops for Education program may earn thousands in cash

Looking for something to do during the "long nights" of **January**? Come on down to the Parish Hall at Grace Church on **Tuesday nights at 7 PM**

for **Game Night!!**

Join Jean and Andy Byerly for a fun night of games, snacks, and great conversation!



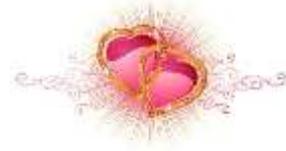
† Birthdays, Baptisms, & Anniversaries † January 2017

*Let us give thanks and praise to God
for these special days in the life of our parish family*

Birthdays



09 Eleanor Cary
11 Lucie Mae Pattison
 Ross Erikson
13 Matthew Fickes
 Hannah Rees
20 Herb Fickes
26 Kathryn Thomas



Anniversaries

05 Roy & Ann Dye
15 Brian & Suzanne Pattison

Reminder:

The Grace Episcopal Church **2016 Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, **January 15th, 2017** after the 10:30 AM Service.

Before the actual meeting, there will be a pot-luck lunch. Please bring a dish to share with fellow parishioners.

Note to all committee members: Please email your annual reports to Linda Robbins by the end of this week at lindalrobbins@gmail.com

Lay Participation Schedule for January 2017

	1/1 The Most Holy Name of Our Lord	1/8 The Baptism of Our Lord	1/15 2nd Sunday after The Epiphany	1/22 3rd Sunday after The Epiphany	1/29 4th Sunday after The Epiphany
<u>1st Lesson</u>	Numbers 6:22-27	Isaiah 42:1-9	EPIPHANY	Isaiah 9:1-4	Micah 6:1-8
<u>Psalm</u>	8	29	LESSONS	27:1,5-13	15
<u>Epistle</u>	Galatians 4:4-7	Acts 10:34-43	AND	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
<u>Gospel</u>	Luke 2:15-21	Matthew 3:13-17	MUSIC	Matthew 4:12-23	Matthew 5:1-12
Ministry	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
<u>LEM</u>	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly
<u>Lector</u>	Pat Peck Betty Moreland	Pat Peck Betty Moreland	Pat Peck Betty Moreland	Pat Peck Betty Moreland	Pat Peck Betty Moreland
<u>Intercessor</u>	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck
<u>Usher</u>	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly
Ministry	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
<u>LEM</u>	Larry Meslar	Cathy Lagana	Mary Hogge	Minna Doyle	Gwen Atwood
<u>Lector</u>	Phil Palin	Eleanor Wabnitz	Ron Morris	Jeannie Palin	Ann Mingedorff
<u>Intercessor</u>	Jenny Morris	Jeannie Palin	Julie Winslow	Roy Dye	Mary Hogge
<u>Usher</u>	Scott Winslow	Roy Dye	Lou Hatter	Mary Hogge	Scott Mingedorff
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	Hogge/Robbins	Hystad	ANNUAL MEETING	Newman	Dye
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Mary Hogge Linda Robbins	Mary Hogge Linda Robbins	Mary Hogge Linda Robbins	Mary Hogge Linda Robbins	Mary Hogge Linda Robbins



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED