

This Week at Grace Church

Sunday, September 29

- 8:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
9:15 a.m. Christianity & Culture
9:30 a.m. Sunday School &
Confirmation Class
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
2:00 p.m. W&L Chamber Choir
Rehearsal (Brooke Family
Ctr)
5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong (Nave)
followed by reception in Parish Hall.

Monday, September 30

- 7:30 a.m.** AA (Conference Rm)
3:30 p.m. Crazy 8's Math Club
(Canterbury Rm)
5:00 p.m. Vestry (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, October 1

- 7:00 a.m.** Men's Prayer Breakfast
(Parish Hall)
4:30 p.m. Call Committee (3rd Floor)
5:30 p.m. Rockbridge Youth Chorale
(Brooke Family Ctr,
Canterbury Rm)
6:30 p.m. EfM (Welles Rm./Library)
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (Parish Hall)
7:00 p.m. AA (Conference Room)

Wednesday, October 2

- 8:00 a.m.** Music Jam (Brooke Fam Ctr)
12:00 p.m. AA (Conference Room)
3:30 p.m. Godly Play/Cherub Choir
4:00 p.m. St. Francis Choir
5:30 p.m. Threshold Singers (Brooke
Family Ctr)
7:00 p.m. A capella Group rehearsal
(Brooke Family Ctr)
9:15 p.m. Compline
(Brooke Family Ctr)

Thursday, October 3

- 6:00 a.m.** Sunrise Rotary (Parish Hall)
6:00 p.m. Bridge (Parish Hall)
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
(Brooke Family Ctr)

Friday, October 4

- 8:00 p.m.** AA (Conference Room)
4:00 p.m. Boy Scout Fundraiser (PH)

Saturday, October 5

- 9:00 a.m.** Arc of Rockbridge (3rd Fl)
10:00 a.m. AA (Conference Room)
11:15 a.m. Al Anon (Conference Rm)

Sunday, October 6

- 12:15 p.m.** First Sunday Lunch

RARA Product of the Month: Canned Pumpkin

While all donations of food are appreciated throughout the year, RARA has designated specific products that they would love to receive each month. Please leave your donations in the basket next to the Welles Room (library) in the Parish Hall

Parish Office Hours during Lisa's Vacation

Tuesday October 1, 9am - 3pm, Wednesday October 2 through Wednesday October 9, 9am - 1pm. Fr. James will have regular hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday. Lisa will be back in the office on Thursday October 10. Thank you to all the volunteers helping to answer the phones and greet guests (and keep Fr. James company).

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Parish News for the week of September 29
Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church.
We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUNDAYS

Classes for Adults, Youth and Children resume today!

Christianity and Culture, Parish Hall, 9:15

A series honoring Peyton Craighill, *Religion and Opera* with Tim Gaylard "Opera and Religion: the cases of four different composers."

Today: Mozart, the Catholic and the Mason

Oct. 6: Verdi, the skeptic and critic of religion

Oct. 13 See below

Oct. 20: Puccini's Sister Angelica as a symbol

Oct. 27: Wagner and the Knights of the Holy Grail

Walking the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice, Sarah Elliot - Oct. 13
Labyrinths are ancient patterns that have existed in a variety of forms for 4,000 years or more. The spiritual practice of labyrinth walking has experienced a world-wide revival since the turn of the 20th century. Explore the history of labyrinths and learn how to use labyrinth walking as a personal or corporate prayer practice.

Youth & Young Adults Canterbury Room, 9:30

Christian Education in the Atrium for ages 3 -12, 9:30, 3rd Floor

**Adult Inquirer's Class, Sundays, Sept. 29 – Dec. 1,
Library, 9:15 – 10:15**

Beginning today, an Adult Inquirer's class will be offered by Fr. James and guest speakers on Sunday mornings for newcomers who would like to know more about Grace Church and for those who would like to brush up on their knowledge of the Episcopal Church. Today's session is titled "*The History of the Anglican Communion.*"

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, sixth bishop of our diocese, is visiting our church on Sunday, December 22, for Confirmation. If you desire to either be confirmed or received as a member (having been confirmed in another denomination) or reaffirm your faith you may do so at that time.

**Tonight: Evensong on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels
followed by Blackberry Reception in the Parish Hall, 5pm
Join us!**

Announcement from the Vestry

We are pleased to inform you that the Vestry met in Executive Session on September 12 and, in response to a passionate, unanimous recommendation from the Call Committee, unanimously elected the Reverend Ellis Tucker Bowerfind to be the new Rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Reverend Bowerfind was ordained to the ministry in 1992 and has served Episcopal churches in Ohio and Massachusetts before becoming rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia, in 2003. Reverend Bowerfind and his wife Delea will be joining us during Advent in December. More information about his installation will be provided as developed.

8:00 a.m.

Music Ministry

Adult Choir Weekly Rehearsals ,
Thursday, 7-8:30. All are welcome!

Wednesday night Contemplative Prayer at Grace 9:15 p.m. in the Brook Family Center.

St. Francis (Junior), Wednesdays, 4:00-4:40 p.m.
Godly Play/Cherub Choir Wednesday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Ukulele Choir, Wednesdays, 4:45-5:25 p.m.

Rockbridge Area Hospice - Singers Welcome

Threshold Singers offer the gift of song at the bedside of those who are at thresholds of living and dying, coming by invitation in groups of 2-4 singers. Our gentle songs bring ease and comfort to clients, family, and caregivers. Practices are held Wednesdays at 5:30 in the Brooke Family Undercroft at Grace Church.

Faith at Home: Ecumenical Parent Discussion Group and Dinner

Sundays, October 6, 20, November 3 and 17,
Welles Rm/Library, 4:30 – 6 pm, Grace Episcopal Church
Childcare is available in the nursery

Please join us as we discuss Wendy Claire Barrie's ***Faith at Home***. *Faith at Home* offers practical ideas and advice for families to engage children in discovering God in the everyday events and special occasions every day of the year. Books are available for purchase for \$14.00 in the office at Grace Episcopal or you may download on your e-reader from Amazon.com.

Questions? Email Sharon Massie sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org
or Katie Masey katie.masey@gmail.com

Time Capsule Opening

Along with the 100th Anniversary Committee, The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia invites you to join them on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5 p.m. at Evans House for the opening of the Time Capsule buried in the courtyard at Evans House in 1999. They will be opening the Time Capsule and the congregational envelopes it contains. They will then display the contents of the envelopes on tables for viewing and afterwards catalog the contents and return them to their respective congregations at Annual Convention in January 2020. They will also plan to highlight some of the items at Fall Mission Day on November 2. A reception with light refreshments will follow the Capsule Opening. If you would like to attend the 100th Anniversary event please go to dioswva.org and click on the link on the homepage to RSVP.

Table Fellowship Groups are Forming Now!

Table fellowship groups are forming for the 2019-2020 season. Groups meet for a meal about once a month. You can meet for brunch, lunch, dinner in homes, restaurants or anywhere you can imagine. The table fellowship groups are 8 to 10 people and are always a source of good food and fellowship. Our Table Fellowship groups are a great way to meet newcomers, old timers and those in between and build community at our church.

If you would like to join a group, please contact Sharon Massie.
sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org

Book Group, beginning Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 PM, Canterbury Room

We will read and discuss *The Way of Love Bible Challenge*. The books are available in the parish office for \$12.00 or \$9.99 on e-readers. We will meet for 8 weeks, from October 2 to November 20.

The Presiding Bishop Curry invites us to *The Way of Love*.

The Way of Love is the way of Jesus. With seven core spiritual practices, the *Way of Love* offers an intentional, Spirit-led path to following Jesus. And what better guidebook for the journey than the Bible? *The Way of Love Bible Challenge* pairs each practice with a passage of scripture as well as reflections, questions, and prayers written by a variety of faith leaders.

Come and see what God has to say about the spiritual practices of Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest. Informed by scripture and inspired through prayer, these practices offer the opportunity to transform our relationship with ourselves, with our family and communities, and with our Savior. Featuring fifty days of reflections, *The Way of Love Bible Challenge* is an extension of The Bible Challenge, a global initiative to encourage daily engagement with scripture and an exploration of the Word of God.

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce the name of the 2019 stewardship campaign – "God's Renewing Love: Growing Through Giving."

The first part of the name reflects a key emphasis in the Collect for a New Priest which we pray each Sunday. The Collect opens by affirming that God represents grace and renewing love, and that we seek to be guided by that love toward the renewal of the spiritual life of our members. It is through God's renewing love that we also aspire to fulfill the aspirations of Grace Episcopal's mission statement.

The mission affirms the desire for our parish to share in the redeeming work of God by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, by worshiping Jesus as Lord, by growing in the knowledge of God and God's will for our parish and by building the fellowship of Christ's body, the Church. The mission statement continues to affirm that we seek to share God's love in witness and service to one another, to our local community, to our neighboring institutions of higher education, and, through the Diocese, to the nation and the world.

We grow as individuals and a community as we draw upon God's renewing love and seriously consider the financial resources we will devote to the vitality of the spiritual life and missions of Grace Episcopal Church. Committing our resources at the highest level appropriate for our circumstances and with serious and prayerful consideration can transform ourselves and our community.

Our parish has tremendous potential. Together, we can help realize it. Let us express our appreciation for God's free-flowing Grace and Renewing Love by enthusiastically supporting the 2019 campaign.

First Sunday Lunch - October 6 after 10:30 Service
Come for fellowship and food! Bring a friend! Beef Stew, Soup, Chili, Salad, Corn Bread, Biscuits, Dessert. If you can help with clean up, contact Susan Lawrence 540-461-6435.