

# **THE CHRONICLE**

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**Grace and Saint Peter's Church**  
*Baltimore's Traditional Anglo-Catholic Parish*

**July 2010**

## From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

July brings us to the middle of the civil year; it seems as if it was just Christmas, but half the year has flown by and we are also in the middle of the Church's Year of Grace. The Sundays after Pentecost or Trinity or Ordinary time are upon us. Many of us are on holiday or are looking forward to holidays. I remind you that we do not take a vacation from Church. If you need suggestions of places to go to Mass on Holiday, I shall be happy to make suggestions. Father Speer, Father Truiett, and I shall be around this summer with our holiday schedules not overlapping so that Mass we be as usual at Grace & St. Peter's. When Fr. Speer and I are both here we shall have High Mass as usual. There will be a cantor, usually Ms. Megan Amoss and either Mr. John Marks or Mr. Stephen Heaver will play the organ. I hope that in spite of the weather you will join us on Sundays and indeed on weekdays.

The Vestry met in June and appointed a nominating committee for the Vestry of Mrs. Fay Lee, Mrs. Louise Tapper, Mrs. Nona Porter, and Mr. Charles Peace. Please give your nominations to the Vestry to them. We vote on new Vestry members at the parish meeting on the first Sunday of October. That Sunday is kept as the Feast of the Dedication of the Church.

During the Sundays after Pentecost we keep such feasts that fall on Sunday. It is permitted by the Prayer Book and is an old, laudable custom. On the last Sunday of July we shall keep the feast of St. James Major. We remember that "Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay was obedient unto the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him."

The collect reminds that we are called to do likewise. I hope that all of you have a wonderful Maryland summer.

I remain faithfully your priest,

*The Rev'd Frederick S. Thomas, SSC*  
*Rector*

## From Father Speer

The six stained glass windows on the epistle side of the nave from the next unit of our meditations on the windows in Grace and St Peter's Church. They tell stories in our Lord's life and ministry after his Baptism and Temptation and before his Passion. The dates in the dedications of the windows show that they were sponsored and performed from the east end to the west end of the church.

See the first Beatitude window. All eyes look to the peacemaker. Two panels tell one story. Six flowers spin in rainbow colors in the roundel above. Sky and trees and clouds frame the tope to the right hand side. Read the story from far to near. Faces and faces and faces. First colorless in the background, then more and more detail as the watchers stand nearer to me Mushrooms and plants and flowers frame the bottom.

Three men stand, and the mother holds her babe beside the soldier, reminding us of the war of 1861-1865. All eyes fix on the two central figures, one kneeling and one sitting. Notice the bare feet of Jesus on the ground, and his gentle blessing hands. Jesus sits clothed in deep red, his signature throughout the windows. He speaks the beatitude, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5.9).

Jesus speaks to the peacemaker kneeling before him. We do not see the peacemaker's face. Jesus calls you and me to kneel and be this peacemaker. The face of the peacemaker is my own face. Jesus calls me to be a peacemaker large or small whenever and wherever the Spirit calls me. As peacemakers you and I obey the command, the blessing, the beatitude of Jesus commanding us to be makers of peace.

See the dedication. "In loving memory of the 18 year rector of this church, Rev George Leeds DD, born October 25 1819 and died April 15 1885." He was rector and peacemaker during the tragic years from 1861 through 1865. The Episcopal Church did not fragment into two fragments, even during those fragmenting years. Hear the call to you and me as Christian people in our everyday lives in the world, and to the Episcopal Church.

*Father Speer*  
*Priest Associate*

## July Kalendar and Mass Intentions

*July is the Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus*

1 MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS	Pope Benedict
2 VISITATION BVM	Greater Marian devotion
3 St Leo II, PC (Octave)	Eugene, our Bishop
4 PENTECOST IV (Octave)	Our Parish Family
5 Octave	The Wilkes School at Grace & St. Peter's
6 Octave Day of SS Peter & Paul	Grace & St. Peter's Church
7 SS Cyril & Methodius, BB CC	The Eastern Churches
8 St Elizabeth of Portugal, W	The Church in Portugal
9 SS John Fisher, BM & Thomas More, M	The Society of the Holy Cross
10 Seven Holy Brothers, MM	Amendment of life
11 PENTECOST VII	Our Parish Family
12 St John Gaulbert	The Church in France
13 St Silas, M	Holy Living
14 St Bonaventure, BCD	Christian Education
15 Translation of St Swithun, BC	The Church in England
16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Apostolic Zeal
17 Of Our Lady	Devotion to the Mother of God
18 PENTECOST VIII	Our Parish Family
19 St Vincent de Paul, C	The Society of the Holy Cross
20 St Margaret, VM	Holiness of life
21 Monthly Requiem	The Faithful departed
22 ST MARY MAGDALENE	Witness to the Resurrection
23 Feria	Christian charity
24 Vigil	Christian faithfulness
25 ST JAMES, Ap. M (Pentecost IX)	Our Parish Family
26 ST ANNE	Christian families
27 Feria	Christian educators
28 SS Nazarius, et al, MM	Dr. Bob's Place
29 St Martha, V	The All Saints Sisters
30 Feria	The Joseph Richey Hospice
31 St Ignatius Loyola, C	The Society of Jesus

## **Parishioners Elected to Order of Blessed William Laud**

Congratulations to Charlie Peace on his election as an inaugural member of the Order of Blessed William Laud, Archbishop and Martyr. This Order, under the umbrella of the Society of King Charles the Martyr, honors those who have made significant contributions to the cause of King Charles and achievements for the advancement SKCM's purposes. Charlie was recognized for his leadership of the SKCM Chapter at Grace and St Peter's since the early 1980s, his efforts along with Father Thomas and Father Garfield to introduce the Royal Martyr into the Prayer Book calendar, and supervision of the installation of the Shrine of King Charles at Grace and St Peter's, among other laudable efforts of behalf of the Society. The letter of commendation and certificate of election, signed by the Society's officers and Episcopal Patron, Bishop Keith Ackerman, SSC, also note the posthumous election of our own Father Donald Garfield and Mr Gary Cole to the Order of Blessed William Laud for their achievements and devotion to King Charles the Martyr.

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### **Unhappy Churchgoing**

For many people, attending church is not a happy experience! Although the call to worship the Divine is one that many respond to, they find that the church is full of people, and wherever there are people, there are problems! If into the pot-pouri of human peculiarities we add a mix of theological and liturgical differences, there are countless reasons for feathers to be ruffled and noses to be put out of joint. What follows is a practical response to some of the most frequent moans.

First, a hopeless priest! Speaking as a priest, I have to say that priests are universally hopeless. As soon as a man is ordained, he is doomed to fail. Priests are there as a constant reminder of God's grace and not as paragons of human virtue. The priest may be hopeless but it doesn't prevent the Lord from using him as a means of grace. If a relationship with a priest has broken down completely, there might be a good reason to worship elsewhere. But this is rare, and moving churches should always be a last resort.

Second, the worship/preaching/ building etc. is not helpful. There are two responses to a general dissatisfaction with the experience of church. The first is to remember that the prime purpose of worship is to give honour, praise and due service to God. This means

that the subjective experience of God is secondary. The second is to ask this question of the complainant: 'What is your contribution to the worship?' It is vital to grasp the truth that worship is not a consumer activity; worship is active participation in the work of the people of God. Hymns are meant to be sung, sermons meant to be listened to and prayers meant to be prayed. Coming to worship in a meanness of spirit will only lead to a negative experience.

Thirdly, other people - this can range from the man who sings loudly and out of tune, to the woman who wears noisy jewelry, to the annoying children and their annoying parents. There are two ways to deal with this in a positive and gracious way. (The alternative is a growing resentment that damages the whole church community.) The first is to be thankful - the church community is the Body of Christ and it has been brought into being by him and bought with his precious blood. Be thankful for all those in church - you are one with them by God's call. The second response is one of self-examination: what is it that irritates you? Reflect on this source of dissatisfaction within your heart. Ask for God's grace in it all, and let him use the problem to draw you closer to him. It is a sad truth that the people who moan the most pray the least!

It is important to have realistic expectations of churchgoing. Please do not expect attendance on a Sunday to meet all your spiritual needs. This is not its purpose. Come to church thankful for the gifts of faith, freedom and health, and, being thankful, be generous to your Heavenly Father and to your brothers and sisters.

The Rev'd Andy Hawes, Warden of Edenham Regional Retreat House  
From *New Directions*, July 2007

## Rules for Killing a Church

Originally printed, minus one or two minor modifications, in an undated edition of the *Grace and Saint Peter's Window*, circa 1920.

1. Don't come. (*Psalm 42:4, 96:8, 100:4*).
2. If you do come, come late (*Psalm 84:10*).
3. Don't imagine the front seats are for you. People might think you conceited.
4. Come bound to find fault (*Psalm 100:4-5*).
5. Don't ever think of praying for your Rector or the Church (*Ephesians 6:18-19, Thessalonians 3:1*).
6. Don't sing (*Psalm 95:1-2, 1 Corinthians 14:15*).
7. Don't attend weekday Masses (*Acts 3:1, Acts 21*).
8. Don't encourage the Rector, but tell his faults to others (*Galatians 6:1*).
9. If his sermon helps you, don't let him know, it might make him vain.
10. If you see a visitor at Mass, don't shake his hand, or ask him to come again, people might think you bold (*Hebrews 13:2*).
11. Never try to bring anyone to church with you (*John 1:41-45, John 12:20-21*).
12. Don't concern yourself with stewardship (*1 Corinthians 16:2*).
13. Don't support Mission work (*Matthew 28:19-20*).
14. Let the Rector do all the work (*Isaiah 41:6-7*).
15. Don't read your church newsletter.
16. Try to run the church (*Mark 10:42-45*).
17. Never speak to anyone about the Faith. The Rector should do all that kind of work (*Daniel 12:3, James 5:20*).
18. Don't be particular about how God's house looks inside or out, but keep your own house looking nice (*1 Kings 6:21-22, Haggai 1:2-4*).

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Sunday**

7:45 a.m. Matins & Low Mass

9:30 a.m. Confessions

10:00 a.m. High Mass

### **Monday**

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

### **Tuesday**

12:00 Noon Low Mass and Holy Unction

### **Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

### **Thursday**

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

### **Friday**

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

### **Saturday**

11:30 a.m. Rosary (First Saturday of the month or when noted)

12:00 Noon Low Mass

### **Grace and Saint Peter's Church**

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