

Full of Grace!

Grace Anglican Church

Fall 2009

'WELCOME BACK' Sunday at Grace

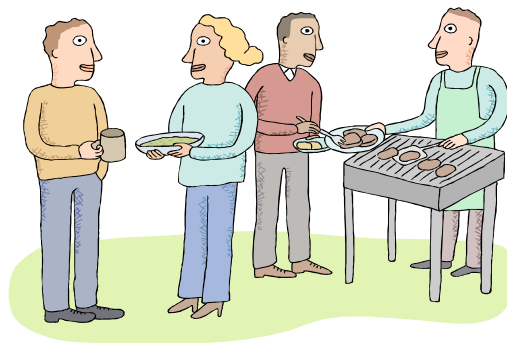
The Sunday after Labour Day often feels like a New Year's Day of sorts at Grace Anglican Church. That day, Sunday School classes start up after a summer hiatus and the choir returns to lead our music in full force. We also welcomed back many of our parishioners who have been vacationing over the summer.

This year there was a sense of added anticipation as a large congregation welcomed our new Associate Pastor, Marty Levesque, and his fiancée Carolyn Marshall to a joint celebration of Marty's new ministry at our 10:00 a.m. service. Both the traditional worship and Counterpoint congregations joined together at the new 10: a.m. worship time to worship and listen as Marty shared some of the story of his faith journey during the sermon time.

It was a very moving and upbeat service. The windows were rattling (metaphorically at least) as both the Counterpoint band and the choir shared their gifts of music. It was a joyful, upbeat service, full of energy. It's hard to describe in writing the electricity that was in the air. At one point in the service, the rector asked Marty to kneel while over 50 members of the congregation came forward, placed their hands on Marty's shoulders, and we prayed over him, asking God's blessing on him as he takes up this new ministry.

After the service, over 75 people met on the lawn to introduce themselves to Marty and Carolyn and share in a free BBQ lunch. There were many comments afterward about what a thrilling time this is to be at Grace Church. Many people said they felt 'pumped' about what the Holy Spirit seems to be doing at Grace and the many good news stories developing as so much of the renewal we thought was breaking in here, begins to bear fruit.

No mention of the day would be complete without a special word of thanks to Renée Anderson and her team for their hard work planning the phone blitz of the parish, the BBQ and hospitality for the day. Special thanks also to our new parish administrator, Shelley Locche for her work on the mailing and the worship program for the day.



Fall Christian Education Events

Explorer Evenings

Like the three Magi who set off to follow the star to its source, we will be doing some evening exploring ourselves in search of the Light of the World. From time to time, Grace/Counterpoint will be offering 'stand alone' Christian education events we are calling *Explorer Evenings*.



The first of these is '**An evening with Rabbi William Eisenstein**' on Wednesday October 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Parish Hall. Rabbi Eisenstein will be speaking to us about the Jewish understanding of 'sabbath' or 'shabat'. Rabbi Eisenstein is an humourous, highly entertaining, and very thought-provoking speaker. The evening promises to be one you won't want to miss. Refreshments to follow.

Movie Nights – Back by Popular Demand!

Last year during Lent, we offered a Lenten Movie series we called *Life and Death*. We'd watch a movie followed by a theological discussion facilitated by the rector on themes and issues brought up by the movie. These were very popular and well attended. Because of their popularity we are planning to hold a movie night once a month. The rector will select movies he thinks will challenge and confront us to reflect on issues of the spiritual life. Most months, we will try and schedule the movie the last Wednesday evening of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m. Movies will be announced at least two weeks in advance in the worship bulletin.



Our first movie in this series will be shown on Wednesday October 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Education room downstairs (formerly Grace's Closet). That evening we will show '*Gran Torino*' directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. Eastwood plays Walt Kowalski, a grumpy, tough-minded, borderline hateful, unhappy Korean war veteran, depressed and feeling devoid of purpose since the death of his wife. The movie follows Kowalski's reaction to and eventual transformation when new Vietnamese neighbours move in next door. Please be forewarned that there is considerable profanity and a scene of disturbing violence in the movie.

The rector is always on the look out for quality movies that do not contain violence and profanity yet still meet the criteria of challenging us with spiritual and theological themes relevant to today. If you know of a movie that meets this criteria please let him know via email at rector@graceanglican.net or by phoning the church office at 519-752-6814, extension 23.

Fall Christian Education Events Continued...

Big Things Come In Small Packages:

A two session exploration of the small Old Testament books, the Book of Ruth and the Book of Jonah.

Who was Ruth, who in the words of Keats “stood in tears amid alien corn?” And what of Jonah who says yes to God’s plan of evangelism, but books passage to Vegas instead?

We will consider these questions and others.

Time: Wednesday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.

Place: Christian Education Room off the Lower Parish Hall

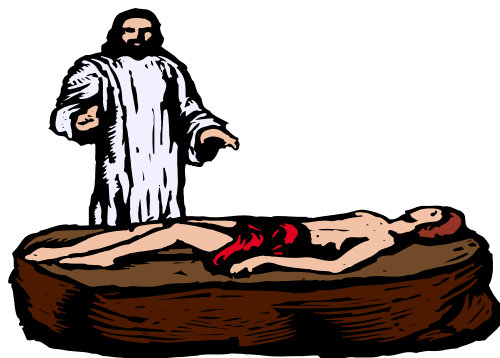
Facilitator: Fr. Bob Schroeder

Phone: 519-758-6814 or 519-759-8372 to register.



Service of Healing

Join us on Sunday, October 18, 2009 for a “*Service Of Healing*”. This service will celebrate the feast of St. Luke the Physician and will include the laying on of hands.



Radically Retro Counterpoint!

I would like to begin by saying thank you to everyone for the warm welcome that Carolyn and I received as I begin my new ministry at Counterpoint. There are many emotions swirling through a person as they begin a new charge, and frankly more so when they begin their first charge. The acts of hospitality from both Grace and Counterpoint have humbled me greatly and I already feel part of the community.

If you haven't had a chance to try Counterpoint yet, I invite you to check us out! This is a really exciting time to be a part of Counterpoint. We are beginning a new chapter in the life of Counterpoint and are in the process of establishing new and exciting opportunities for spirituality and growth in the Christian tradition.

As I muse about what Counterpoint is and will be I am always drawn back to the picture of the early church. In many ways Counterpoint is not a new type of ministry or worship service. In fact, I would describe it as radically retro! Just like the original Jesus movement, before the institutional church was established, we have house churches as well. The house church that has been meeting for some time now will be commissioned soon with a new name and renewed sense of direction.

In Counterpoint, we come together to worship weekly, but also will be coming together to celebrate the Christian life and the Christian seasons. As such, stay tuned for news about Counterpoint's first Christian New Year's party. Other programs and events are in the works and over this next year we will be putting together an exciting line up of events and opportunities for spiritual growth for the whole family. Connections are being made with the greater Brantford community and many partnerships are already forming. While this immediate year will be one of formation and planning, I invite you to get in on the ground floor as we begin to plan and discern the direction for our events.

This is an incredibly exciting time to be part of the church and Counterpoint. As such I invite you to stop by and have a chat with me about spiritual issues, the church in general or just to get acquainted. I will be in my office in St Stephen's House Christian Residence every Saturday from 1-3 pm. I also want to extend an open invitation to any and all that want to join the Counterpoint steering committee and help form and direct the future of Counterpoint.

Yours in Christ

Marty Levesque



Meet Shelley Locche



We are very pleased to introduce you to our new Parish Administrator. On August 1, 2009 Mrs. Shelley Locche joined the staff at Grace Church, replacing Janet Fehr who has moved to London.

Shelley lives in Paris with her husband Ben in a century home they have restored. She has two daughters and a son. She brings a wealth of experience in working for non-profit organizations to Grace. In addition to her strong secretarial skills, Shelley has hands-on experience in fundraising and volunteer management. Shelley was quickly thrown into the action and is already making a strong contribution to parish life here at Grace and Counterpoint.

Shelley works mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Shelley takes general inquiries, hall and church bookings, announcements for our weekly bulletin (which should be given to her by 9 a.m. Thursdays at the latest). She is responsible for producing the weekly order of service and the PowerPoint presentation for our Counterpoint worship service. Shelley will also be coordinating several parish communications, publishing projects and helps with keeping the website updated. Shelley also takes the minutes at our monthly parish council and annual vestry meetings. Her daily duties also include support and putting up with the idiosyncrasies of the rector, the Counterpoint pastor, the wardens, Dave Johnston and the musicians. Surely, sainthood can't be far behind.

Please take the time to drop by and welcome her. She'd love to meet you.

You can send Shelley an e-mail at secretary@graceanglican.net or reach her in the church office at (519) 752-6814, extension 21.

Looking To Volunteer Your Time And Talents?

We are looking for volunteers to minister at Grace in the following capacities:

- We could use one more Sunday School teacher, willing to take on one three week rotation a semester.
- Would you like to participate in our worship? Our traditional 10:00 a.m. worship service is looking for people to read lessons, to lead the prayers of the people and we are looking for another server.

If any of these positions interests you please call Dave Johnston in the church office at 519-752-6814, ext. 22 or e-mail him at dave@graceanglican.net.

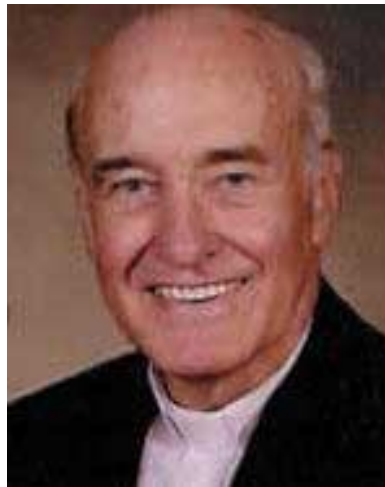
You are invited to

A CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SERVICE

Sunday October 25, 2009
10:00 a.m.

The Reverend Alex Morris

Celebrates Two Significant Milestones in 2009



Alex is coming up 50s

- 50 years since his ordination as a Deacon
- 50 years since his ordination to the Priesthood
- Alex and Joyce also celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary this summer

Alex will preach and celebrate the Eucharist

Pot Luck Luncheon to follow
the 10:00 a.m. service

Mark your calendars!

Memoirs of 50 years as a Priest

By The Reverend Alex Morris

Editor's Note: On December 27th, Alex will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. See the announcement in the newsletter for details of a celebration of his ministry.

I wish that I could say that fifty years as an Anglican Priest actively involved in both parish and hospital ministries resulted in memories of student days filled with hours of keen, sharp-minded debate, moments of memorable pastoral enlightenment and deep theological insight. But no, the most memorable moments ranged between a statement by a wise psychiatrist in a clergy seminar who advised us "don't try to be junior messiahs" to recollections after a number of years in parishes including sad, poignant moments when I had to tell a young woman with three pre-teen age children that her husband had died of a heart attack in his office; to breath-holding humour when the father of a child about to be baptized said trembling "I know the scripture reading says 'baptized in the Jordan by John', but I'm so afraid I'm going to say 'baptized in the John by Jordan' " He didn't. Pastoral ministry was certainly a ministry of extremes; extremes of joy and sadness, of disappointments and accomplishments, of frustrations and successes.

During the many years in pastoral ministry I had to remind myself of the psychiatrists advice, that I wasn't going to be able to solve everyone's problems, that many people didn't want or need their "problem" resolved, they were very happy in their neuroses, thank you very much.

In 1959, the Diocese of Montreal encompassed the city of Montreal, a burgeoning suburban district and a large rural area made up of many small towns and parishes. In my idealism as a student, rural parish life seemed ideal, and so I indicated my preference to the bishop. He promptly assigned me to two downtown congregations, one an older don't-you-try-to-change-anything congregation, the other set in the middle of an oil refinery, ship-building and military establishment neighbourhood. From there we - Joyce and I had married in 1959 - moved to a large, established parish on the south shore, then to a newly built church in a textile town, the previous church having burnt down the year before; then to one that was considered one of the 'plums' of the diocese, a large, 300 family, 400 church school, suburban parish. It was there that we experienced to the fullest the whole range of pastoral opportunities, dilemmas, disappointments, excitement, frustrations and pleasures. Some of those emotional moments resulted in friendships which have lasted to the present day.

During student days I had joined the Canadian Army in the Canadian Officers Training Corps. For years after I had maintained my association with the military through membership in reserve regiments. After sixteen years in parish life it seemed a natural when the opportunity arose to become Chaplain to a Veterans Hospital. We made that move and stayed in that capacity for ten years. That initial training along with courses and certification in gerontology at the University of Michigan gave me a better understanding and appreciation of the aging process and in particular the many personal challenges faced, and in many cases overcome, by the institutionalized, aging veteran.

In 1986 a series of personal and professional events prompted our move to Brantford. By then, Joyce had been teaching for fifteen years and, after a brief hiatus, was employed by the Grand Erie Board where she remained until retirement in 1999. My thirteen years as Chaplain at the Brantford General Hospital was a time of great satisfaction and happiness. Along with the not unexpected instances of sadness while ministering to the parents of a dead infant, theological probing while meeting with doctors and nurses to discuss the termination of life support of a patient, frustration while counseling a young male heart attack patient who refused to lose weight or stop smoking because in his opinion God wouldn't let him die because he is too young. Today, I still meet people who remind me how helpful my intervention was when I visited them or a family member, even though I may recall neither the person nor the event.

There were many times during fifty years of ministry that both Joyce and I had to remind ourselves and each other in our respective professions not to succumb to the 'junior messiah' syndrome. Fifty years of ministry and fifty years of marriage have been kind to us. God has been good to us during our fifty years in ministry and marriage. We pray that we will continue in His service for many years to come.

Week2Serve

Announced at our last Diocesan Synod, Week2Serve is a program to help stimulate and encourage *fresh* outreach ministry in every congregation. Our desire is to encourage every member of the Diocese to do two hours of ministry in their community that they have never done before. If every member of the Diocese does this between November 15 and 22, the accumulation of hours will total exactly the same number of hours (24/7) that Jesus served in his three years up public ministry before his Crucifixion.

It is our hope that the people of Grace and Counterpoint will go out on Sunday, November 15 to serve their two hours. We will then welcome them back on *The Reign of Christ Sunday* (November 22) which marks the conclusion of the church's liturgical year.

Those who wish to participate will be given a form on November 15 and asked to fill it out and to return to the church as part of *The Reign of Christ Sunday's* offertory collection. The certificates will be blessed at the altar.

To assist you in thinking about how you could serve, the diocesan staff have published ideas and resources to get you started on our Diocesan Web Site:

<http://www.diohuron.org/welcome/Week2Serve/week2serve.html> .

We hope this will be enjoyable and engaging exercise for the people of Grace and Counterpoint and we look forward to your active and enthusiastic participation. As rector I am going to participate in Week2Serve by offering two hours that week to a young family in the parish who would like a babysitter so the parents can have some alone time.

Here are some service ideas off the Huron website (and adapted for Grace/Counterpoint) that may appeal to you:

Service Ideas for Huron's Week2Serve

1. Volunteer to cut your neighbor's lawn, or your church's lawn. (or Shovel snow!!!)
2. Volunteer to weed your neighbor's garden, or your Church's garden.
3. Volunteer to give time to a local food bank.
4. Volunteer to assist one of your Church's Sunday School teachers.
5. Volunteer to read to a vision impaired person in your congregation, or at a local nursing home.
6. Volunteer to serve at the Daily Bread dinner program.
7. Clean up a street that has trash that needs to be cleaned up.
8. Write a letter to a friend or relative who may be lonely.
9. Telephone someone who you haven't seen for a long time.
10. Visit someone you know who is in the hospital or in a nursing home.

Week2Serve Ideas Continued...

11. Start a pen pal relationship with someone in the Diocese of Mthatha (our South African Diocese with whom we have a companion relationship).
12. Volunteer to read a lesson at Sunday worship.
13. Volunteer to assist as a Sunday Greeter or an usher at your Church.
14. Volunteer at a local school to tutor a student.
15. Befriend someone who seems to need befriending.
16. Make and deliver a casserole to someone who you think would appreciate or need such an act of kindness.
17. Invite a friend or neighbor to Church.
18. Volunteer to drive someone in need of transportation to do shopping.
19. Be available to someone without a car to transport them to a doctor's appointment.
20. Pray daily for all those who are on your Church's intercessory prayer list.
21. Make a financial contribution to a local charity.
22. Offer to pray with someone who is ill or in need of being connected to God's love.
23. Give away something to a local clothing bank.
24. Give away a possession to the Salvation Army.
25. Make an effort to discover who in your local community are in need; and what it is that you could do to help them.
26. Read a book on world hunger or on Social Justice.
27. Begin a new outreach project at your Church.

28. Volunteer Canada www.volunteer.ca

29. Find out what the needs are in YOUR community and fill one need for a day – share the list with your congregation.

30. Help out in a day care facility or volunteer to cuddle babies in a special needs nursery.

31. Become a mentor in a youth organization.
32. Collect food from friends and neighbors for the Grace emergency food cupboard.
33. Make an interfaith connection in your community.
34. Organize a walk-a-thon or bike-a-thon to raise money for your favorite local charity.
35. Teach someone how to use a computer or improve their skills.
36. Educate yourself and others about the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women.
37. Create a prayer shawl for someone in need of prayers as a visible sign of intercessions.
38. Welcome a new neighbor on your street.
39. Learn about the inequalities/inadequacies and unequal access to education and training of women in Canada and globally.
40. Learn about the affects of war and foreign occupation on women and children.
41. Volunteer with special needs students.
42. Give parents of special needs a day off.
43. Offer a free night of baby sitting to a young family here at Grace or Counterpoint.
44. Help a teacher prepare for a special unit at their school.
45. Become involved in the mission outreach in your congregation; help out in a project or join the committee.
46. Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.
47. Learn about the needs of the First Nation people.

Good News!



Congratulations to Pat Tomkins who celebrated her 90th birthday in late July.

On September 22, 2009 Counterpoint held their first Baptism. Sebastian Gillyatt was baptized. This also marked Counterpoint's largest congregation ever with 79 people in attendance.

Welcome Griffin Robert Mordue, he was born on August 14, 2009. Happy parents are Mark and Heather Mordue. Another grandson for Bob and Carol Rayfield.

Congratulations to Paul Waring, his daughter Elizabeth married John Fuller on the 18th of July, 2009 at the Old Mill in Ancaster.

If you would like to put an announcement into one of our newsletters please e-mail Shelley with the details.

Shoeboxes have arrived! Every year the Anglican parishes in our deanery invite area Anglicans to participate in the "Shoebox outreach" to children in less developed countries. Members can pick up a Shoebox at the back of the church or parish hall and fill it with gifts for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child program. Please return your shoebox by November 16th to the church. To learn more about this program you can find details on the internet at www.samaritanspurse.ca

Divorced Separated Support Group

Beginning Thursday October 15, 2009 and continuing for eight consecutive Thursdays, we will, once again be offering a support group for divorced and separated persons. Cost of the group is \$25 (to pay for materials). This price compares very favourably to other groups that can cost \$75-\$100. The group will meet from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m in the Christian Education room off the lower hall and is being facilitated by the rector. Call the church office or see our website at www.graceanglican.net to learn more. If you know of a friend, family member or neighbour who might benefit from this group, please tell them about it.

Great News at St. Stephen's House!!



We are very excited to announce that, for the first time, St. Stephen's House Christian residence next door to the church is at FULL capacity. All ten rooms in the residence are taken for the Fall 09 term.

Our student marketing liaisons, Ruth Mahon and Mieke Schroeder, have done a marvelous job in marketing the residence to Laurier students on behalf of all of us and we are most grateful to them for their ministry.

Marty Levesque, our new Counterpoint Associate Pastor has moved into his office in the front room on the main floor and will be living at St. Stephen's House for the fall and winter terms. Living on-site is a big benefit to Marty as he is already connecting with the students, forming relationships, and offering pastoral support to the St. Stephen's House community.

As we reflect on this good news, it's been quite a learning process for us and we are filled with gratitude that God has sent us enough students to really begin to build a community in the residence.

Thanks be to God, the giver of all good gifts.

Happy Birthday Daily Bread



On Wednesday November 25, 2009 the Daily Bread meal program will celebrate a very special anniversary. Ten years earlier the Daily Bread offered its first meal to the Brantford community. Since then over 70,000 meals have been served thanks to the dedication and commitment to a small army of volunteers from across our Brant Deanery.

Tenth Anniversary events planned include:

- Wednesday November 25th (the actual anniversary day) a special meal with local dignitaries invited to say a few words. The local and regional media will also be invited.
- We are currently planning a Deanery Eucharistic Celebration of Ministry at 3p.m. on Sunday November 22nd – the Reign of Christ. This service will be at Grace Church and we are pleased to have Bishop Bob Bennett as the guest preacher and he will celebrate the Eucharist with us on this special day. We will be inviting Daily Bread volunteers from all over the deanery to play liturgical roles in the service. We will also be inviting many past clergy and lay leaders who had a role in the program to this celebration service.
- The Celebration of Ministry service will be followed by a reception in the Grace Church parish hall.

We have lots to celebrate and give thanks as we reflect on this important outreach ministry to the needy of our city. Stay tuned for more details.





The Jesus of the Gospels was a man whose health, strength, energy and vitality roused admiration and love, as in the woman who cried, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you, the breasts you sucked!' (Luke 11:27) But he was never seventy. He never suffered the infirmities of age, stiff limbs, slow apprehension, failing memory, blunting of senses, tottering balance. You sometimes feel, as you get older, that the old Victorian adage about children is reversed. 'Old people should be seen but not heard.' But God has plans for us too, and works on us in other ways. You remember that prayer they discovered at an old nun's kneeler, 'Lord, you know better than I that I am growing old, and will some day be old. Keep me from getting talkative and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject on every occasion. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all. 'Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I don't wish to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details - give me wings to get to the point. I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience. But seal my lips on my aches and pains - they are interesting and my love of rehearsing them becomes sweeter as the years go by. But you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.'

Source: Sacred Space Jesuit prayer website <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

A VERSE TO REMEMBER...

Philippians 4:6 – “...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Visit us at www.graceanglican.net