



September 2017

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Houston, TX 77025
832-667-8601
www.graceinhouston.org
info@graceinhouston.org

September Birthdays

9/16 Tom Mason
9/18 Nancy Hannan
9/22 Valerie Carter

September Anniversaries

9/13 Sara and Brent Bushell
9/22 Johnny & Deborah Dancer

THE GRACEVINE

Grace Website Content is Expanding!

If you haven't checked us out online in a while, go to graceinhouston.org from a desktop, laptop or a smart mobile device. Be sure to bookmark it for ready access.

The new design by Sara Bushell is easy for clergy, staff and designated ministry leads to update. We've added separate pages for our [outreach](#) ministries: Circle of Care, Community Garden, Grace in Action (Shalom), Grace 2 Go, Grace 4 Youth.

We have a new [CONTACT US](#) page with a form to submit comments, questions, requests for info, or an appointment. Our companion Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/graceinhouston/> also now has a CONTACT US button. Either generates an email to info@graceinhouston.org, monitored by Mitzi Coleman.

Flowers for September

9/3 Pat Powell

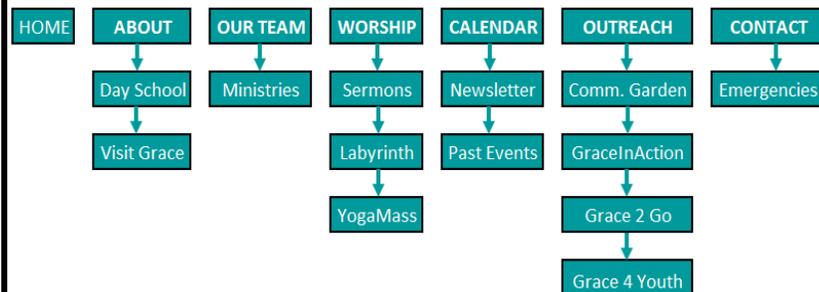
9/10 Glenn & Antoinette Lazaro in celebration of Noah A. Lazaro's birthday!

9/17

9/24 Phillip & Cheryl Kimbrough in memory of Anne Ladner's Birthday.

Grace Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas, U.S.A

Website map for www.graceinhouston.org



September Coffee Hosts

9/3 DOK

9/10 Men of Grace

9/17 Pat Powell & Friends

9/24 The Kimbrough's

A Prayer In the Aftermath of a Storm

We are, as ever, called to share bread with the hungry, to take those who suffer into our homes, to clothe the naked, to not ignore our sisters and brothers. Many more of our brothers and sisters are hungry, homeless, cold, and vulnerable today than were just a few days ago, and we need Your Help. We pray from the depths of our souls and we pray with the toil of our bodies for healing in the face of devastation. We look to the sacred wells of human resilience and compassion and ask You for even more strength and hope. Be with us God, comfort us, and support us as we rebuild that which has been lost. May all this be Your will. *Amen.*

By Menachem Creditor, Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley, CA

Join us for Morning

**Prayer
Mondays
at**

**9:00-9:30 am
In the Church!**

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE SEPTEMBER

One night, around 7:30 pm I went to the garden to water and weed. As I was working, I noticed a car drive up and park in the far corner by the street. Two small boys, about 9 or 10 got out and went to play in the field. The father stayed in the car. I watered and watched out of the corner of my eye. Later, the father got out and sat on the parking lot curb with his cell phone. I kept looking at the okra and then looking over at the father. "Okay," I said to myself, "it is to be shared," so I picked one and crossed the parking lot. As I approached the father, I said, "Hello, this is okra. We are growing it in our garden over there. Would you like to have some?" He said he knew what okra was and that in his country it is a very popular vegetable especially prepared with meat. He asked if it is good okra and I answered that it is organic and our garden is organic, and he responded, "That is good okra." He and the boys then walked with me over to the garden. I gave him my clippers and let him pick his own. He knew exactly which ones to go for. All this time we were in a wonderfully animated conversation. He had just completed his Master's in molecular genetics at MD Anderson and would be returning to Saudi Arabia soon. He asked many questions about the garden, was I a volunteer, did I live nearby. Curious about our life. He asked where he could purchase seeds saying he wanted to take a variety of seeds back to his country. We talked for at least 30 minutes. With the father's permission, I gave one of the boys the clippers to harvest some fruit under his father's watchful eye. The other child sat on the grass hugging his soccer ball looking forlorn. His father said he was sad because his friends weren't there. It seems he comes to play soccer with the apartment children. There are so many levels to this encounter on the grounds of Grace. But I just wanted to share with you this story and to say that in that moment, the garden was doing exactly what it was there for. It is not only in the grand gestures but in the momentary encounters that we find the answer to the question "Who is my neighbor?"

By Melanie Dando

Words from Your Warden

Heartfelt thanks for your support during the Town Hall Meeting and spectacular Farewell Reception for Rev. Gena and Gary.

We, The Bishop's Committee have not yet met with the Diocese at the writing of message. We will communicate the position of Diocese on obtaining another Vicar as it is revealed to us. Keep in mind we still have a goal of returning to Parish status by 2020. The battle has just escalated, and with God's help, we will adjust our plans and remain persistent warriors. Please stay in prayer.

Proverbs 24 (NRSV)

*³ By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established;
⁴ by knowledge the rooms are filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.
⁵ Wise warriors are mightier than strong ones,
and those who have knowledge than those who have strength;
⁶ for by wise guidance you can wage your war,
and in abundance of counselors there is victory.*

The Bishop's Committee stands ready to serve this community and requires your support as wise counselors, so give us any suggestions you may have to grow the church. Every member of the Bishop's Committee is ready to listen.

Respectfully yours,
Cheryl Ladner Kimbrough

THIRD THURSDAY, SEPT. 21st
2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Flex Room

BOOK CLUB AT GRACE

Murder Down Under
by Arthur W. Upfield

Please join us. QUESTIONS?? Contact Carla Hawke
chawke99@yahoo.com



A Sunday visitor in the courtyard... by Paula Dittrick

Christian Education

ADULT FORMATION

- Sundays @ 9:00 –9:45 am Bible study, The Book of James led by Daniel Coleman
- Sundays @ 9:00 am Contemplative Prayer with Gospel Reading Lectio Divina (Conference Room)
- Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm Book Study & Contemplative Prayer
- 2nd Saturday @ 11:00 am Prayer and Potluck: Gospel Reading Lectio Divina, led by Cheryl Kimbrough (bring a dish to share)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Sundays @ 10 am **Godly Play (Godly Play Room)** - - Children join the worship service to receive Holy Communion, led by Christie Hudlow

YOUTH GROUP (6th - 12th GRADES)

- Sundays after Church **Youth Group** with Nina Davey

Grace4Youth Youth Alert.

Godly Play and Youth Group begins September 9th. Youth Bible Study is 11:30-1:00.

Please prayerfully consider being a volunteer SUBSTITUTE teacher for our children's group.

-Nina Davey

Grace4Youth—Colin & Armin With kids from the neighborhood.



SENIORS

What's Happening in SEPTEMBER

**Senior's Luncheon
Tuesday,
September 12, 2017**

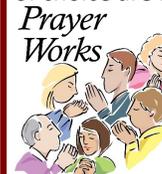
HUNAN'S

**3835 Bellaire Blvd,
Houston, TX 77025**

*Please sign up in the
Parish Hall.*

Prayer and Potluck

Prayer and Potluck meets the second Saturday of each month from 11:00 am to 1:00pm to engage in Christian education through Bible Study. We use the Kaleidoscope study process with Mutual Invitation and Respectful Communication Guidelines. Scripture study choice is Gospel reading scheduled for the immediate following Sunday after the class. Our Bible versions of choice are King James Version, *Prayer Works* New International Version and The Message. We feel using these versions for discussion and the subsequent use of the



New Revised Standard Version during Sunday service will provide a generous format for understanding a particular reading. Each participant is asked to bring a brunch item or beverage to share during our study as we seek to nourish both the body and the mind, knowing the Spirit is with us always. All are invited to join us as we explore our Gospel readings for personal enrichment in a communal atmosphere. **The September 9, 2020 scripture is Matthew 18:15-20, the question is: How often do you consider scripture when resolving conflict?**

- Phillip and Cheryl Kimbrough

SAVE THE DATES!!

- ♥ **BISHOP'S VISIT Sunday, October 8th**
- ♥ **BETHLEHEM GIFT MARKET Sunday, October 15th after the 10 am Service.**

JOIN WITH US FOR MEDITATION

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
Sundays at 9:00 am

JUNIOR WARDEN BUILDING UPDATE

More Efficient Lighting at Grace

Our Grace Episcopal school is steadily replacing class-room 4ft long fluorescent bulbs and ballasts with new LED bulbs and drivers. This work is being done Saturdays, so as to not interfere with classes or with church services. Our sexton Mario Ruiz is doing this work with the help of a school parent. We're saving the large diameter fluorescents for re-use in the Parish Hall, and we plan to re-lamp in there before we have our Bishop's confirmation visit in the fall. In addition, the up-light bulbs on the internal walkways either side of the parish hall are being progressively replaced as they burn out.

Stewardship of Gardens

We are blessed to have multiple groups that care for the variety of gardens on our site: the decorative seasonal plants that welcome drivers when they arrive, and seasonal plantings in the internal courtyard; the community garden with its pollinator bed and individual beds tended by different individuals; and the plants native to south-east Texas in the Labyrinth area.

We would like to coordinate the planning and care of these gardens in a more coordinated fashion. This will include what plants to put in the decorative gardens - to include perennials not just seasonals - and extending the buried watering system. It will also cover what we can mulch, disposal of non-mulchable.

If you are interested in being part of the planning, contact Norma Burlingame, Nancy Hannan or Bob Andrew

Bob Andrew, Junior Warden

September Note from Rev. Dr. John

Dear Grace Family:

As I said on Sunday, like an eclipse, people come and go in our lives. We were blessed to have had the Rev. Gena Davis as our Vicar for six years. She is now following God's call for her life and we can rejoice that we were able to witness her glorious ministry and the introduction of YogaMass in our very midst.

Everything changes except our Lord. God will not leave or forsake us. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, we remain steady even when we don't know for certain what the future may hold. God's love remains even in the midst of change.

Let us give thanks for Gena and Gary Davis and their ministry. Let us continue to pray for them on their journey. Let us pray God prepare our hearts to receive our next Vicar and let us pray for that person, whoever she or he may be.

May God bless you and Grace Church in the days ahead,

My love and blessing,

Fr. John

PARISH HALL OR FLEX ROOM RENTAL

We enjoyed having the Jewish Congregation Shma Koleinu every Friday night for two years, after their former location flooded, but they have now gone back to another synagogue site. Now Grace will have Westbury Democrats rent our Parish Hall the third Monday night of each month. Their numbers range from 60 to over 100: hence the pews in the Parish Hall for overflow seating.

If you know of other groups who would like to rent a regular meeting place, let our Junior Warden Bob Andrew know. They need to bring their own food and drink, and pay for sexton setup/cleanup. One-off events such as Quinceanera are welcome: we are price-competitive. For groups of 20 or less we can also offer the Flex Room, with access to the Labyrinth and Prayer Garden.