

GRACE

notes



October 2017



A WORD TO THE CHURCH



A Word to the Church from The Episcopal Church's House of Bishops

Gathered in Fairbanks, Alaska,
September 21-26, 2017

The bishops of The Episcopal Church came to Alaska to listen to the earth and its peoples as an act of prayer, solidarity and witness.

We came because:

- “*The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers*” (Psalm 24:1-2). God is the Lord of all the earth and of all people; we are one family, the family of God.
- “*You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are ... members of the household of God*” (Ephesians 2:19). The residents of interior Alaska whom we met are not strangers; they are members of the same household of faith.
- People have “*become hard of hearing, and shut their eyes so that they won’t see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand with their minds, and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them*” (Matthew 13:14-15). We are blind and deaf to the groaning of the earth and its peoples; we are learning the art of prayerful listening.

What does listening to the earth and its people mean? For us bishops, it meant:

- Getting out and walking the land, standing beside the rivers, sitting beside people whose livelihood depends on that land. We had to slow down and live at the pace of the stories we heard. We had to trust that listening is prayer.
- Recognizing that struggles for justice are connected. Racism, the economy, violence of every kind, and the environment are interrelated. We have seen this reality not only in the Arctic, but also at Standing

Rock in the Dakotas, in the recent hurricanes, in Flint, Michigan, Charlottesville, Virginia, and in the violence perpetuated against people of color and vulnerable populations anywhere.

- Understanding that listening is deeply connected to healing. In many healing stories in the gospels, Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” That is, he listened first and then acted.

What did we hear?

- “The weather is really different today,” one leader told us. “Now spring comes earlier, and fall lasts longer. This is threatening our lives because the permafrost is melting and destabilizing the rivers. We depend on the rivers.”
- The land in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge where the caribou birth their calves is called the “sacred place where life begins,” so sacred the Gwich’in People do not set foot there. “Drilling here,” people said, “is like digging beneath the National Cathedral.”
- After shopping together, a native Episcopalian told one of us how hard it is to even secure food. “We can’t get good food here. We have to drive to Fairbanks. It is a two-hour trip each way.”

What we bishops saw and heard in Alaska is dramatic, but it is not unique. Stories like these can be heard in each of the nations where The Episcopal Church is present. They can be heard in our own communities. We invite you to join us, your bishops, and those people already engaged in this work, in taking time to listen to people in your dioceses and neighborhoods. Look for the connections among race, violence of every kind, economic disparity, and the environment. Then, after reflecting in prayer and engaging with scripture, partner with people in common commitment to the healing of God’s world. God calls us to listen to each other with increased attention. It is only with unstopped ears and open eyes that our hearts and lives will be changed. It is through the reconciling love of God in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that we and the earth itself will be healed.

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;

Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land

and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community.

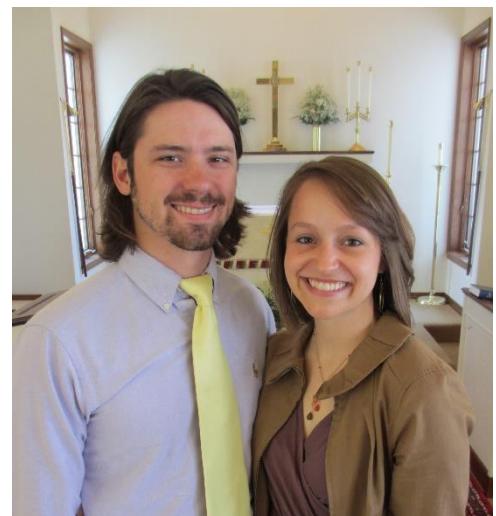
For you are the One who seeks the lost,
binds our wounds and sets us free,
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.

Amen.

BERGSTROM FAREWELL

Dear church family,

After being members in this beautiful community of faith with you all since 2008, Ben and I are both very sad and excited to announce that we are moving to Miami, FL.



I (Meredith) will be working for a town planning firm called Dover, Kohl & Partners, a dream come true for me. Ben will pursue new opportunities and potentially an exciting graduate program. We love you all so much, and we are deeply grateful for the many ways our church family has cared for us over the years. I can't imagine a church home for us that is any more loving or connected.

We'll visit as often as we can! I plan to move on Oct. 4, and after finishing up work and band projects, Ben will follow at the beginning of December. I'll come back to Siloam for a visit in mid-November, and we hope to have a little goodbye reception then. But more immediately, we plan to host a gathering at our home on Monday, Oct. 2nd for me to say a very fond "See ya later!" – all are welcome! Drop by anytime from 5pm -10pm.

Warmly,

Meredith & Ben

2017 CHORAL SCHOLARS

Meet our Choral Scholars...

Three JBU students have been appointed Choral Scholars for the current academic year. They typically attend both services, usually singing in the small ensemble at the early service, and assisting in warming up the choir as well as chanting the psalm at the late service.



New this year is Hannah Schroeder (pictured above on the left), a double major in Music with an emphasis in vocal pedagogy and in Worship Arts. A junior from Salina, KS, she attended Kansas State University one year and then transferred to JBU last year. Hannah is a member of the Cathedral Choir and also is active in the chapel band program, often doing the vocals in chapel.

Also new this year is Mia Smith (pictured above on the right), a sophomore Music Education major from Wichita. Her principal applied area is piano, and she too sings in Cathedral Choir. Both Mia and Hannah can sing either soprano or alto, and they usually alternate between the sections on a weekly basis. This means that they are learning both parts on all our music – they are getting lots of experience in sight-reading!

Returning this year is Adam Sloter of Bella Vista (pictured above in the middle), a double major in Pre-Theological Studies and in Worship Arts. He is not just a Choral Scholar but also our first-ever Music Intern, and his primary responsibility is directing the choir. His internship satisfies a requirement of the Worship Arts degree program. At present Adam is preparing for *The Boy Friend*, the JBU fall musical, in which he plays the male lead (the title character). He will graduate in May.

The Choral Scholar Program, now in its ninth year, is underwritten by anonymous donors. We **THANK YOU** for your generous support.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Please Welcome...

Grace Church is excited to announce our new Children's Ministry Coordinators, Laura Arft & Rochelle Franco!



Laura Arft...

Hi! My name is Laura Arft. My daughter, Kristin, and I have lived in Siloam for 13 years. After Kristin's Dad passed away 7 years ago, I thought about moving closer to my Mom, but Siloam had become our home. We truly love living here. I

teach preschool at Sunshine Montessori and Kristin is homeschooled (prayers for surviving algebra would be appreciated!) and works part time at Sunshine as well. We first visited Grace last August and have felt at home since then. When I discovered that Godly Play is based on the philosophy of Montessori education, I knew this is where God wanted me to be. I'm so thankful to have this opportunity to help lead and work in the children's ministry!

Rochelle Franco...

Rochelle Franco has a beautiful family of five (six if you count the pup, Pippin). She has 3 amazing boys and an amazing husband. She has seen the importance of ministry to children for very long time. She worked as a camp counselor at numerous camps including New Life Ranch, and she and husband Tony helped lead the children's church for two years at CCF. Rochelle is very excited to co-lead Godly Play and Whirl along with Laura Arft.



Thanks for letting us minister to the next generation!

REALM UPDATE

The New Database...

Thank you to those who signed up for the new database during September!



Anyone who did not have a chance to sign up will receive an invitation via email in October. Please follow the link and set up your account. You can then download the Realm Connect app (use the same email and password you created via the link), using the app will keep you logged in.

Once in the system, you will be able to receive news from the church, as well as the Weekly Word from Stan, and messages from various groups you may be a part of. You also have access to the church directory and your giving/pledge history.

This platform will be used more and more for communications, so don't miss out!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 1...

The Annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis will take place on the north lawn of the church this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. All furry, feathered, scaled, and finned friends are encouraged to come for a blessing!



GRACE CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHOOL

Sunday, October 8th...

The Grace Children's Choir School will be leading worship on Sunday, October 8th at the early service. All are welcome to attend and hear these wonderful young voices as they lead us in worship!



INQUIRER'S CLASS

Begins Sunday, October 8th...

Are you interested in learning more about Grace Church or maybe becoming a member? Inquirer's Class (IC) is the place for you! IC will meet Sundays at 6:30 p.m. (immediately after the Celtic Service) starting October 8th.

All are welcome to attend to learn more about the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and our Liturgical tradition. Please feel free to attend as you are available, childcare will be provided.



PARISH RETREAT



October 20-22nd...

Please join us in Eureka Springs at House of Blessings for the Grace Church annual Parish Retreat, October 20-22! House of Blessings is a wonderful retreat center, owned and operated by two Episcopal priests in our Diocese. Please look for a schedule of events in the coming weeks, and join us for fellowship and relaxation in the mountains of Eureka!

Click [HERE](#) to register online.

Scholarships are available, cost is \$75 per person.

VESTRY MEETING

October 29th...

The Grace vestry will meet on Sunday, October 29th at 1:00 p.m.



GIVING TO GRACE



Ways to Give...

ONLINE GIVING | Please visit www.gracesiloam.org/giving to give to various funds right from the website.

TEXT TO GIVE | Text the keyword GRACESILOAM to 73256 and give right from your mobile device.

VIA THE DATABASE APP | Give via Realm Connect...our new database app!

OUTREACH AT GRACE

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Sunday Collections...

Each Sunday during the month, we will be collecting donations for the various organizations we support. Please bring your donations and place them in the basket at the back of the Nave before the service and they will be brought forward to be blessed during the offering. Thank you!

1st Sunday

Genesis House

(canned food w/pop tops, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sm. shampoo bottles, soap)

2nd Sunday

Manna Center

(tuna, peanut butter, cereal, mac & cheese)

3rd Sunday

The Children's Shelter

(hoodies in all sizes, deodorant, combs & hairbrushes, hair ties)

4th Sunday*

Little Free Pantry

(peanut butter, diapers in all sizes, bread, canned goods)

*If a month contains 5 Sundays, the collection for Little Free Pantry will continue.

FAMILY IN NEED

The Murphy Family...

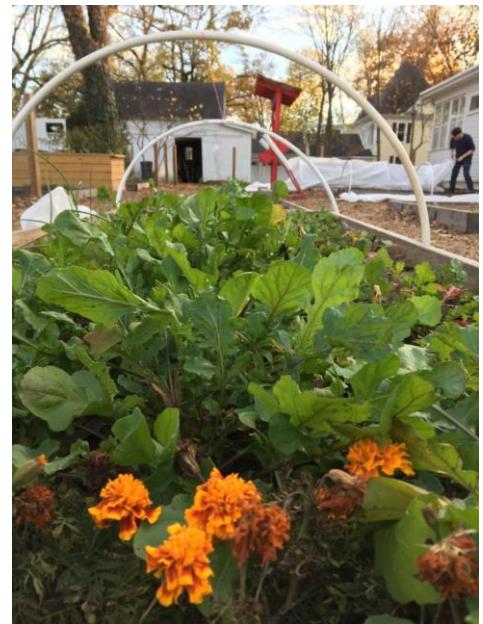
Grace Church, under the leadership of the Outreach Committee, is supporting a family in need (the Murphy family) through a difficult illness. The Murphy Family was brought to us by the Genesis House, and consists of three members, Carlos, Lea, and daughter Meranda. They have been attending Grace the past couple weeks, and are in need of meals while Lea is undergoing medical treatments. The church will be supporting them through Thanksgiving and Christmas, and will possibly do a fundraiser to help support them this fall.

Please look for the meals sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, and if you see them at church please be sure and introduce yourself! For more information, please contact Lisa Burch, Gary Baird or Patty Arnett.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Garden Party...

The Garden of Siloam Springs (our community garden) will be having their annual fundraiser, Saturday, October 14th from 6-9p.m. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets!



Litany of Remembrance...

All Saints' Day is Sunday, November 5th. A Litany of Remembrance will be sung at both services honoring the memory of friends and loved ones. Please look in your Thursday email (the Thursday Tidings) for a link in the coming weeks to add names to the list. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall mid-October.



LECTIONARY

OCTOBER 1ST

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

OCTOBER 15TH

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

OCTOBER 8TH

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

OCTOBER 22TH

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

OCTOBER 29TH

Dueteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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