



The Anchor Line

Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach, Florida

www.gracespirit.org

December, 2017

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church:

This has been quite a year! We have bid a fond farewell to Fr. Joe as he entered into retirement. We have entered into a shared ministry with St. Thomas. And we are set to welcome Reverend Mary Alice Mathison as our new Rector-in-Charge. I especially want to thank each and every member of our Grace Church family for their dedication, patience, hard work and faithfulness dealing with all the challenges and changes this last year.

Mary Alice begins in her official capacity on 1 December, and will officiate at her first service with us on 3 December. I know many of you have already had an opportunity to meet and greet her, but hope you will make a special effort to attend this Sunday and stay for a reception for her following the 9:00 AM service.

December is a busy month and so here are a few notes and reminders as we prepare for Christmas. First, our Annual Parish meeting will be held on the 17th of December immediately following the 9:00 AM service. Second, Jamie Shepard has graciously offered to host our Christmas Party this year the evening of the 17th. Please refer to the notice here in the Anchorline for more information. And last, but not least, we will again welcome the Bay Strings to perform at our Christmas Eve service. The music will start at 7:00 PM with the formal service beginning at 8:00. Be sure to join us and arrive early for a good seat and some excellent music.

Wishing you a wonderful Advent,

Sam Richardson, Senior Warden



The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison

Mary Alice was raised in Pensacola, Florida, where she grew up at Christ Church Parish and attended Episcopal Day School. She graduated from Pensacola High School's International Baccalaureate, and then received a BA in History and Political Science from The University of the South, in Seawee, Tennessee. In May 2014 she graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary with a Master's of Divinity and began serving as curate at St. Paul's Daphne, shortly there after being ordained to the priesthood.

At St. Paul's, Mary Alice participated in regular duties of preaching, teaching, and leading worship, with her primary focus being on youth ministry for 6th-12th graders. In her 3 ½ years at St. Paul's the youth program thrived with opportunities for youth to participate in parish activities, engage in community activities such as Trunk or Treat, attend diocesan events like Happening and Maundy Thursday Night Watch at Beckwith, and go on mission trips to Kentucky and the Dominican Republic.

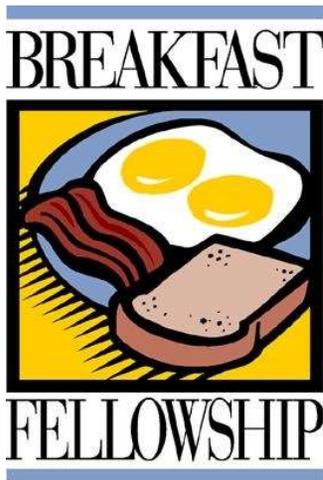
With in the diocesan level Mary Alice has actively participated in Happening as a spiritual director, and also serves as the College and Young Adult Missioner, a position that is works on developing ministry opportunities for college age and young adults into their mid 30s.

In addition to serving in God's ministry, Mary Alice also enjoys being active, working out, hiking, and is especially interested in good food, good coffee, and good travel. She has two dogs, Lucy and Frannie, and loves to be able to visit family and friends both near and far.



Wednesday Night Fellowship

Join us for our Mid-Week service on Wednesday's beginning at 5:45 pm with the Holy Communion followed by a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage of choice.



Join us in Wilhite Hall Sunday, December 3rd, immediately after the 9:00 am worship service for a reception to welcome our new priest Mary Alice Mathison!! Everyone is invited.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, December 12th, at 12noon at
Triple J's Steakhouse on Thomas Drive
All men are invited and bring a friend!!

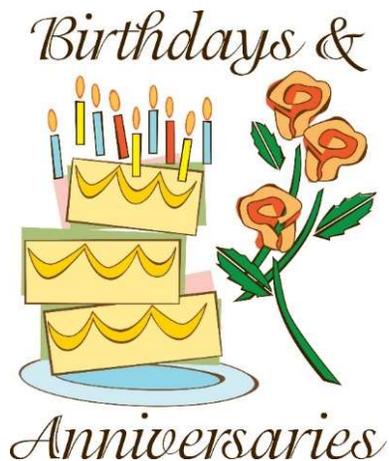


We need coffee hour hosts for
December. Sign-up sheet is in
Wilhite Hall. Thank you to everyone
who participates in this ministry.



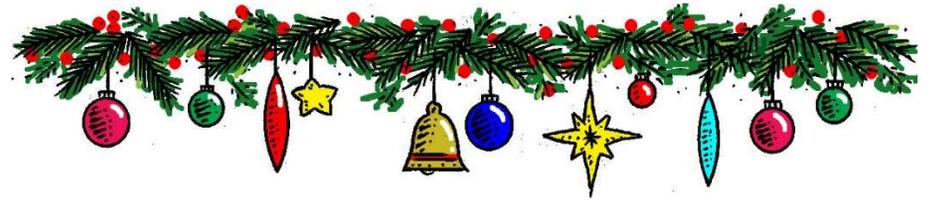
Electronic Fund Giving

We thank you for your faithful support.
Anyone wishing to donate to Grace Church online may now do so. Just visit us at gracespirit.org and go to the Stewardship tab. Our budget requirement weekly is \$2,869.21. If you have not turned in a pledge card, you may still do so. Go to our website and download it and email to Dawn in the church office at secretary@gracespirit.org.



*Birthdays &
Anniversaries*

12/25 John Dunaway



You are cordially invited...

Grace Parish Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 17, at 4-7pm

At the home of

Randy and Jamie Shepard,
3106 Preserve Rookery Blvd
Panama City Beach, 32408

Bring a finger food to share and a beverage of your choice. Soft drinks, coffee and tea provided.

Please reply by Thursday, December 14,
to Jamie Shepard at or

GoJamieShepard@gmail.com

or call 234-1983. Directions and other information may be found in the parish hall and in the Narthax at the church.

Those serving the month of *December*

12/3 9:00 am
 Chalice Gray
 Acolyte Gray
 Lector Shepard
 Intercessor Westmoreland
 Counters Walters
 Greeters Swearingen

12/10
 Chalice Steere
 Acolyte Steere
 Lector Pope
 Intercessor Pope
 Counters Swearingen
 Greeters Swearingen

12/17
 Chalice Knafelc
 Acolyte Knafelc
 Lector Hale
 Intercessor Hale
 Counters Richardson
 Greeters Swearingen

12/24 8:00 pm
 Chalice Richardson Walters
 Acolyte Richardson Walters
 Lector Russo Walters
 Intercessor Richardson Walters
 Counters Richardson Walters
 Greeters Swearingen

12/31
 Chalice Gray
 Acolyte Gray
 Lector Westmoreland
 Intercessor Westmoreland
 Counters Walters
 Greeters Swearingen



December 3
 Isaiah 64:1-9
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Mark 13:24-37
 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

December 10
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 2 Peter 3:8-15
 Mark 1:1-8
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

December 17
 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28
 Psalm 123

December 24
 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38
 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

December 31
 Isaiah 61:10—62:3
 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
 John 1:1-18
 Psalm 147