

# THE Spirit OF Grace

NEWSLETTER OF  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
819 MADISON STREET, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13210

THE REV. JENNIFER BASKERVILLE-BURROWS, RECTOR  
315-478-0901 • WWW.GRACESYRACUSE.ORG  
**OCTOBER 2011**

## Westcott Festival

**G**race Church was out in force at the annual Westcott Festival. Several members marched in the parade, a showcase of our eclectic church neighborhood. See pgs. 3 & 8.



Grace's Sara Tucker (pictured) and sister Emma marched with Open Hand Theater.



Grace's Sheila Newport-Jenkins marched with the American Legion's Dunbar Post.

## Hidden Handouts

**While many Americans rail at too much government, most of us gladly accept the benefits of 'invisible' government programs**

Excerpted from Op-Ed piece written by Grace Church member Suzanne Mettler for the New York Times. Also published in the Post Standard (10/02/11)

**D**on't take at face value the claims that Americans dislike government. Sure, a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 56 percent of Americans said they wanted smaller government and fewer services. Tea party activists, the most vocal citizens of our time, powerfully amplify those demands. Yet the reality is that the vast majority of Americans have at some point relied on government programs — and valued them — even though they often fail to recognize that government is the source of the assistance.

A 2008 poll of 1,400 Americans by the Cornell Survey Research Institute found that when people were asked whether they had “ever used a government social program,” 57 percent said they had not. Respondents were then asked whether they had availed themselves of any of 21 different federal policies, including Social Security, unemployment insurance, the home-mortgage-interest deduction and student loans. It turned out that 94 percent of those who had denied using programs had benefited from at least one; the average respondent had used four.

Americans often fail to recognize government's role in society, even if they have experienced it in their own lives. That is because so much of what government does today is largely invisible.

Individuals' political views partly account for their perceptions. In the Cornell poll, a respondent who self-identified as “extremely liberal” was 20 percentage points more likely to acknowledge using a government program than someone who used the same number of programs but was “extremely conservative.” Also, those who believed that the nation spent too much on welfare were less likely to admit that they had used a “government social program,” perhaps because that term had pejorative connotations.

Besides political ideology, the design of policies also influences awareness. The most visible policies are those that require people to interact frequently or intensively with public officials to qualify for benefits, like food stamps, disability payments and subsidized housing. Another set of programs, including Medicare, Pell Grants and Social Security retirement benefits, are also fairly visible, though each contains characteristics that can camouflage government's role.

The man at the town hall meeting in the summer of 2009 who angrily told his congressman, “Keep your government hands off my Medicare,” might have been



Suzanne Mettler

*Continued on page 4*

### Shaping a Life

I love the month of October. It is one of the most beautiful months of the year in almost every corner of our country. Here in Syracuse, we experience it as a transitional month of blazing beauty as trees put on a Technicolor show for all creation to enjoy. We harvest the last of the year's produce from the ground and bury bulbs of all kinds from tulips to garlic and practice hopeful patience as we wait months and months for them to deliver on their promises.

October is also one of the most difficult months of the year because it tends to get overloaded with too much to do. Meetings, school trips, special events, family commitments—all these are piled onto already busy schedules in an attempt to capitalize on good traveling weather before winter really hits.

Every time October rolls around I have to ask myself: will this be the year I get taken under, or will I be able to shape a life centered on God, family and community that will nourish me and those I love?

Truth be told, it is a question I ask every month of the year but I get real about it in October.

This is the month when I try to reestablish rituals that have may have fallen off track in the irregular rhythms of the summer months. Rituals like beginning the day with a few minutes of centering prayer—yes—even with an infant I can grab hold of this precious time to delight in God's presence and give thanks and lift up the needs of those in pain and difficult places. And journaling—just a few pages of reflection on my hopes for the day and the concerns that weigh so heavy on my heart that writing them out becomes like a sigh of release. And gazing—stopping amidst a too-full day to take in the beauty around me; or to look for the beauty that may not be readily apparent...yes, that steadies my frantic mind. There are other practices too (gathering with all of you to break bread, sing and pray; serving those in need) and all of them give a holy shape to my busy days.

In these very busy days I hope we will remember to keep our God-centered life just that. In the weeks and months to come there will be adult classes on centering prayer, the spirituality of baking bread, and other practices that nurture our life of faith. We will also be thinking of the year to come, preparing our annual fund drive to support the mission of Grace Church, and continuing to strengthen the support of the ministries that all of you make possible. It is my hope that all of these efforts will help us shape a common life that is pleasing to God, nourishing to our families, and transformative for our community.

Wishing you a bountiful, beautiful, and God-filled month,

Jennifer+



### Grace Church Office Hours

Monday	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to Noon

**Rector's Hours:** The rector will keep office hours at Grace Church on Wednesdays and Fridays, though sometimes she will be out of the office on pastoral calls, for meetings, or other parish business. On Tuesdays and Thursdays she can be found in her office at Hendricks Chapel.

#### Staff

Rector	The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows e-mail: jlbasker@syr.edu
Priest Associate	The Rev. Katherine B.L. Day
Parish Wardens	Sabrina Coleman Eddie Tyson
Parish Administrator	Tracey White e-mail: trwhite@syr.edu
Organ Scholar	Jonathan Embry
Children's Formation Teachers	Ernestine Patterson Barbara Slater
Nursery Attendant	Grace Chang

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### Got stories, photos, ideas?

Please help us make the *Spirit of Grace* a great newsletter! Give stories, photos, etc. to Sue Keeter (via email at keeters@upstate.edu, phone 423-0203, or in the newsletter mailbox).

Most importantly, if we missed something, or someone...please let Sue know. We want to recognize and celebrate everyone!

## Grace at the Westcott Festival



Ted Curtis performed with an Irish group.



Emma Tucker danced to Dave Hanlon's Cookbook with friends Imani, Eva and Gabriella.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Adult Formation Opportunities

#### October 16—

The Rector reports back from South Africa—a session on the Episcopal Church in conversation with the wider Anglican Communion

#### October 23—

Bread Workshop. Bread has deep meaning for people of faith. We'll explore the spirituality of bread and bake up the communion bread for future worship services.

#### October 30—

Souls and Saints. We will look at that other triduum of feast days—All Souls, All Hallowed and All Saints days. Putting the holiday of Halloween in context we will explore its meaning beyond the costumes and candy.

### Every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held every Sunday for 45 minutes prior to worship. Anyone who attends a rehearsal is welcome to sing with the choir in that Sunday's worship service.

### 4th to 6th Graders

Rev. Kate Day has plans for Christian formation classes for 4th to 6th graders, including reading "The Little Chapel that Stood."



### Third Sunday Brunch

#### *A New Feast and Fellowship Tradition*

All university students, and 20-/30-somethings are invited to join Mother Jennifer and Episcopal Campus Ministry assistant, David Ferguson, for brunch on the third Sunday of the month. Each month, after worship we will connect a coffee hour and then hit a different local eatery for brunch and conversation. Brunch is sponsored by the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Syracuse University but all undergrad and grad students and Grace Church young adults are welcome.



David Ferguson

On October 16 we will check out brunch at Dinosaur BBQ. For more information see David or Jennifer and plan to join us!

# Mother Jennifer Joins Delegation to South Africa

*I am honored to be a part of a delegation from The Episcopal Church that will engage our Anglican brothers and sisters in Africa on issues of human sexuality and justice. I will look forward to sharing my reflections on this experience upon my return. What follows is a brief description of the Consultation. I bid your prayers for our work and for safe travel.*

Jennifer+

In mid-October, the Chicago Consultation and the Ujamaa Centre of the University of KwaZulu-Natal will convene a gathering in South Africa to strengthen mission and advocacy connections among Anglicans who are interested in the theology of human sexuality and justice. We believe that deeper connections with each other will make it easier for us to work together in mission and to communicate productively when challenging Communion-wide issues arise. The co-conveners of the consultation are Professor Gerald West, director of the Ujamaa Centre, and Professor Esther Mombo of St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya. The consultation, which will involve

about 55 people and last for three days, will be grounded in the Indaba process, prayer and Bible study and will explore theological perspectives on human sexuality and justice. Participants will include theologians, bishops, church leaders, grassroots advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and other people willing to engage in intensive conversations across cultural boundaries. The participants in the consultation will share their experiences with the wider church through stories and video reflections and through the report of a listening team led by the Rev. Janet Trisk, a representative to the Anglican Consultative Council from the Church of Southern Africa.

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### Hidden Handouts —continued from page one

in less of a state of denial than many believed: last year, one in four Medicare beneficiaries got their benefits through a private insurance company.

In the case of Social Security, checks are sent directly by the government, making it clear why 56 percent of beneficiaries in the Cornell poll acknowledged the use of a social program. But the denial by the remaining 44 percent is also understandable, given that individuals contributed directly from their paychecks to help finance the program. President Franklin D. Roosevelt insisted on this arrangement, knowing the benefits would be understood as an earned right. That way, he said, “no damn politician can ever scrap my social security program.”

The final group of policies, what I call the “submerged state,” is largely invisible because its benefits are channeled through the tax code and subsidies to private organizations. These include the home-mortgage-interest deduction and the exemption from taxes on

employer-provided health and retirement benefits. Using “submerged” benefits is nearly as common as using more visible policies.

Even personal encounters with the submerged state fail to make most people recognize that they have benefited from government. The greater the number of visible policies an individual had used, the more likely he or she was to agree that “government programs have helped me in times of need,” but greater use of policies of the submerged state had no comparable impact. Likewise, the greater the number of visible policies used, the higher the rate of agreement that “government has provided me opportunities to improve my standard of living”; by contrast, those who had used more submerged policies were more likely to disagree. The hidden policies left beneficiaries with the false impression that their economic security was owed merely to their own efforts.

The submerged state obscures the role of government and exaggerates that of

the market. It leaves citizens unaware of the source of programs and unable to form meaningful opinions about them.

Until political leaders reveal government benefits for what they are by talking openly about them, we cannot have an honest discussion about spending, taxes or deficits. The stipulation in the new health care reform law that W-2 forms must indicate the value of untaxed employer-provided health care benefits is a step in the right direction. The government should also provide “receipts” that inform people of the size of each benefit they get through the tax code.

The threat to democracy today is not the size of government but rather the hidden form that so much of its growth has taken. If those who assume government has never helped them could see how it has, it might help defuse our polarized political climate and reinvigorate informed citizenship.



TJ Geiger

## Speaking on the Death Penalty

On September 30, Grace's T.J. Geiger was interviewed on The Forum, a WERW radio show. The topic was the death penalty and the controversy surrounding the September 21 execution of Troy Davis in Georgia, a man whose guilt had been significantly brought into question. As a long-time death penalty opponent, T.J. drew on his experience as a former member of the Boards of Directors for both the Texas and National Coalitions to Abolish the Death Penalty to explain what he sees at the practical and moral failures of the U.S. death penalty.

When host Jeremiah Thompson asked what people of faith say about this issue, T.J. pointed to the many denominations that affirm life and Jesus' message of healing and reconciliation. Since 1958, the Episcopal House of Bishops has urged the abolition of the death penalty.

For Grace members interested in this issue contact New Yorkers for Alternatives to the Death Penalty at [info@nyadp.org](mailto:info@nyadp.org) or 888-224-6579.

## Parish House Upgrades

In December, the heavy snow forced melt water in between roof layers on the front part of the Parish House roof and the water ran down the walls and onto the ceiling causing extensive water damage.

Using money from our insurance company, Grace recently completed repairs to the walls and ceiling. Gary Wright of CNY Builders installed new dry wall to the ceiling of the entrance hall, scraped flaking paint and repainted the walls to make the entrance hall look like new. Next the holes in the ceiling of the second floor hall and bathroom were cleaned, scraped and then re-plastered before a new coat of paint was applied. The south wall of the Parish Hall was scraped, a new skim coat of plaster was applied and the wall was painted.

Taking advantage of Gary being on site, we replaced the wooden exterior doors to the Garden with fire-safe steel doors and better locks to provide added security.



Donald Fudge

## GRACE IN THE COMMUNITY

### FDR's visit to Syracuse

September marked the 75th anniversary of President Roosevelt's visit to Syracuse. He was here to launch his reelection campaign and lay the cornerstone of the medical school building, which was funded by his Works Project Administration. In honor of the event, Grace's Susan Keeter painted his portrait which was unveiled at a ceremony and hangs in the newly named Roosevelt Room at Weiskotten Hall, Upstate Medical University



Sue Keeter's portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt



Eric Rodriguez and Ed Richmond will be married at Grace this month.

## Welcome and Congratulations!

**E**ric Rodriguez and Ed Richmond, new members of Grace Church, will be married here on October 22. The couple have been together for 17 years and have invited 120 relatives and friends to their long-awaited marriage. Eric's family is travelling from Puerto Rico, Tampa and Orlando to attend the wedding. Ed's family is local and includes his children, Joseph and Jennifer, and grandson, Joseph, all of whom will be in the wedding party.

"My first connection with Grace Church was 26 years ago, when I got sober, thanks to AA meetings held here," said Ed. "And there are happy coincidences. My mother's name was Grace; and my daughter's name is Jennifer. It just feels right to be here.

Congratulations, Eric and Ed, and welcome to the Grace Church family!



## A Gift from the Nat'l Council of Negro Women

**M**other Jennifer was the guest speaker at the National Council of Negro Women's Membership Drive on Saturday, September 24, 2011.

The event was a tea honoring Dr. Dorothy I. Height. Mother Jennifer spoke of the importance of mentoring, and how her own life had been shaped by important mentors like the women in the audience.

The organization presented Mother Jennifer with a sassy hat as a token of her words of encouragement that afternoon.



## Sophie and Ariana in Washington!

**S**ophie Mettler-Grove (at left) had a great summer internship with U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. There, she had the opportunity to work with another member of the Grace Church family: Ariyana Reks, daughter of Sarah and Imats Reks. Ariyana has been working for Senator Boxer for four years.



DATE 2011	10-9	10-16	10-23	10-30
OT-PSALM	Ernestine Patterson	Don Fudge	Rosa Clark	Judith Brooks
NT	John Auwaerter	Helen Pina	Willson Cummer	Nancy McCarty
INTER-CESSOR	Sarah Tucker	Bud Adams	Samantha Aitkin	Harrison Burrows
CHALICE	Josie Atkins, Sarah Reks	Eddie Tyson, Judith Brooks	Helen Pina, C. Vanderpool	Rosa Clark, Greta Jones
SERVERS	Shirley Edge, Josh Aitken, Tyler Aitken	H. Burrows, Jesse Davis, Emma Tucker	Greta Jones, E. Auwaerter, R. Auwaerter	TJ Geiger, Tyler Aitken, E. Auwaerter

## GRACE CHURCH TRANSITIONS

### Edward Keeter

In May, a memorial service was held at Grace for Edward Keeter, father of Susan Keeter, and grandfather of Sara and Emma Tucker. In September, Sue carried his remains to Tampa for his military burial ceremony. After the flag ceremony and playing of Taps, several friends and family members did readings, including Ed's granddaughter, Julie Weston, who read the following (excerpted here):

#### My Grandfather

I see your face, I hear your laugh, and I see you looking down at me as if I was still a little girl.

I remember you fixing breakfast for Grandma, always shopping for her, taking care of Great-grandma and all of us.

Your care for us made me have great expectations for my own relationships. I expected my boyfriends to cook and shop for me, too. Why would I know different?

You taught me many things. I know that ice cream and evening TV shows are a treat. I know how to play a mean game of cards. I know how to shuffle and deal and keep my eye on the penny in the game, Scat.

You always remembered to do the everyday things, the things that made life easier for the rest of us. I remember your bear-like laugh and how much you enjoyed telling a story. I can see you patting Grandma on the hind end and



Julie Weston at Ed Keeter's burial ceremony; his flag ceremony at the Florida National Cemetery.

throwing your head back in laughter. I remember you taking care of Great-grandma every day for years.

When I think of all the things that you passed on to me, I remember a time when you came to my rescue.

I was away from home and very young, and you came to see me with love in your heart. You checked in with me and gave me some insight into my Mom and life and the road we travel. You talked about the difficulty of understanding some people and that we may never understand the things they do. This day stays with me.

You made a difference in my life and I'm blessed to call you my Grandfather.

*Grace*  
**CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)**  
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## GRACE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

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A close up of Grace's Sheila Newport-Jenkins as she marched with the American Legion's Dunbar Post at the Twentieth Annual Westcott Festival. The Dunbar Post hosted its legendary barbeque that day, as well as a tasty bake sale.