

# THE *Spirit* OF *Grace*

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

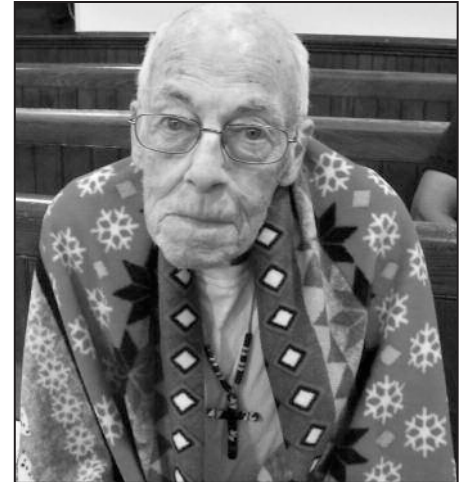
THE REV. JENNIFER BASKERVILLE-BURROWS, RECTOR  
315-478-0901 • WWW.GRACESYRACUSE.ORG  
**SEPTEMBER 2011**



Beaded crosses made by O-kuh-ha-tah's grandson, Kerwin Whiteshield, were worn by Mother Jennifer, Jim Steele and acolyte Emma Tucker.



Acolyte TJ Geiger carried the beaded cross with eagle feathers. The altar was covered with a Cheyenne blanket from Oklahoma.



Jim Steele wore a Cheyenne blanket, a gift from James Knowles, deacon of the Oklahoma mission started by O-kuh-ha-tah in the 1880s. The blanket is worn by elders during the Honor Dance.

## Celebrating the Feast of O-kuh-ha-tah (Saint David Pendleton Oakerhater)

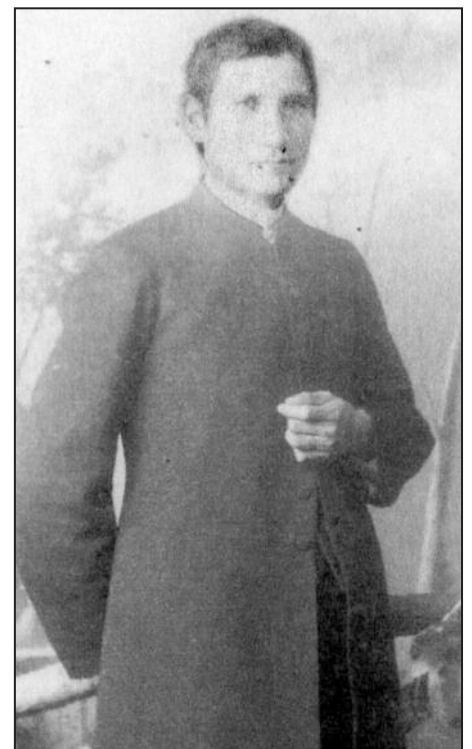
The Rev. Kate Day gave a tender and enlightening sermon at the Feast of Saint O-kuh-ha-tah, held annually on the Sunday closest to Sept. 1. O-kuh-ha-tah, the first Native American saint of the Episcopal Church, is especially important to Grace Church because we are a national shrine, and home to the magnificent pair of stained glass windows created in his honor in 2005. The windows were designed by his granddaughter, Roberta Whiteshield, and fabricated by Syracuse artist Rose Viviano.

St. O-kuh-ha-tah (David Pendleton Oakerhater) was a Cheyenne from Oklahoma, who was baptized (1878) and ordained (1881) at Grace Church. In the late 1870s, he was imprisoned

in Florida for his role in leading Cheyenne resistance against US soldiers. Mary Burnham, a leader in the Episcopal Church, assisted in O-kuh-ha-tah's release and brought him to Central New York.

After living and worshipping in Utica and Syracuse for several years, O-kuh-ha-tah returned to Watonga, Oklahoma where he built a school and Christian mission, and devoted the rest of his life to serving the Cheyenne people.

Longtime church member, Jim Steele, has been instrumental in our church's ongoing celebration of St. O-kuh-ha-tah. Jim raised money for our beautiful windows and arranged to have descendants of St. Oakerhater attend our celebration in 2005.



O-Kuh-ha-tah, circa 1880

# Pardon Our Dust

**Y**ou've no doubt seen these words before. Most likely on signs at the mall or places of business where renovation, rebuilding, or rehabilitation work is taking place. With the much needed plaster repair taking place in the Grace Church parish house, I was tempted to hang such a sign myself. The dust is everywhere, scaffolding rises high above our heads, and slowly but surely, the holes, open seams, and broken walls are being restored and repaired. The work inside our sacred space echoes the construction taking place outside of it—we now have a new sidewalk on University Avenue and the work of building the physical Connective Corridor is well underway.

In the end, however, I decided that hanging a “pardon our dust” sign would be redundant. And now I speak not of our buildings (which seem in perpetual need of restoration) but of each of us and the community we form as the parish of Grace Church and the people of God.

As God's beloved we are ever evolving, growing, renewing, and being restored. There are times in our lives when we need a total restoration and other times when a simple tweak or tune up will do. We tend to speak only of it in the season of Lent but we are indeed dust. The beauty of a community like Grace Church is that we can gather to celebrate and rejoice with one another and we can be honest about our open seams and broken hearts in the hopes that in the hands of a loving God and one another, we can be put back together again.

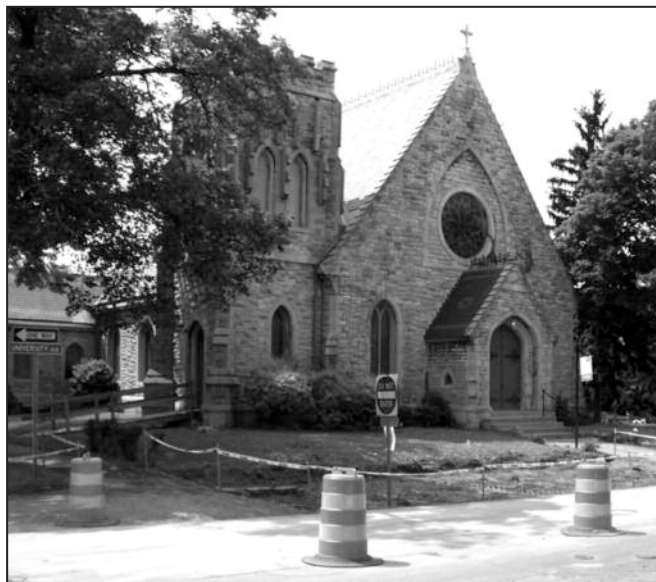
All of this talk of dust stands in contrast to the squeaky clean start of a new school and program year. For us this means that church school for children begins again, the ABCDs of Christianity for adults will begin later this fall, early plans are underway for a new Thursday night worship service, and a new Grace Crafting Guild is in formation.

Like our restoration work, things may be a bit messy as we regain the momentum of the program year. But there is lots to do and your gifts, your passion and especially your dust have a place right in the mix.

Faithfully,

Jennifer+

The bright plastic cones and tape surrounding our church give a hint of the massive exterior improvement project taking place throughout our church neighborhood, thanks to SU's Connective Corridor initiative.



# Grace Church Office Hours

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

**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!

# Why I Retain Hope After Surviving 9/11

An Excerpt from the 9/11/11 Post Standard

By Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

The morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was in a stairwell a few blocks from the World Trade Center, convinced I was going to die. I said my goodbyes, uttered prayers of thanks for the life I'd led, and waited. When the doors of Trinity Church finally flung open, I tried to process the daylight glinting over the devastation that blanketed the street. I held the hand of a woman I'd just met as we ran to the Staten Island Ferry — eyes shut against the flying debris — as the north tower collapsed...clinging to the hope that we might live.

The things lost that day: thousands of God's beloved; ignorance about our country's tangled history in the Middle East; feelings of security and the sense that our hallowed nation was somehow beyond the grasp of the worst atrocities. All gone.

As a priest, those first days were spent helping others through their grief, and trying to help my community understand how God is present in times of unfathomable tragedy.

...It is hard to believe 10 years have passed....Wars and an ailing economy do their best to dim our hopes and deepen our fears. But the movement toward hope — real and profound hope — continues.

The woman whose hand I held is now a good friend. Our lives are as connected as our hands that day.

When I think of the brokenness and pain that often define human relationships..., I wonder if we are making it too complicated.

Maybe all we have to do is take a stranger's hand, step out into the unknown and cling to the hope of life as if we really mean it.



Mother Jennifer and the ecumenical clergy group of Syracuse University's Hendricks Chapel joined together for a somber worship service held in recognition of the tenth anniversary of September 11.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Grace Church choir rehearsals are held every Sunday for 45 minutes prior to worship. The choir is described as a "pick up" choir because anyone who attends a Sunday rehearsal is welcome to sing with the choir in that Sunday's worship service. The requirement to participate? The only requirement is that you enjoy singing, says organ scholar Johnathan Embry.

### *Sunday, Sept. 25* Sunday School

Christian formation classes — for all ages — begins on Sunday, Sept. 25. Held immediately after worship service, children's classes take place in the children's room adjacent to the kitchen; classes for adults are held in the conference room adjacent to the office.

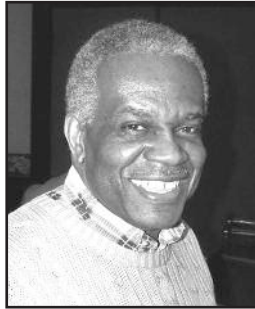


### *Tues., Sept. 27* The Price is Right!

Over the summer, Chuck and Gloria Vanderpool were on the set of the tv show, "The Price is Right" and that segment will air on Sept. 27. Watch the show, and look for Chuck and Gloria! Their visit to the TV studio was part of a month-long vacation in honor of Chuck and Gloria's 50th wedding anniversary. They travelled cross-country with friends and went to St. Louis, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Mt. Rushmore, and Yellowstone National Park!

## Grace at Mary Nelson's Back to School Barbeque

Grace's Eddie Tyson and Mike Atkins provided support at Mary Nelson's barbeque, an August event at which thousands of Syracuse children are given back packs and school supplies to support their success in the new school year. Eddie was there by 7 a.m., joining other Elks Club members to set up for the event, which covered eight city blocks. Mike Atkins was on site throughout the festival, greeting supporters and pitching in wherever he was needed. Thank you, Eddie and Mike, for everything you do to strengthen our community.



Eddie Tyson (top right); Mike Atkins with Mary Nelson (at right)

## Talk about Recycling!

At the end of worship, you may see Helen Pina collecting the weekly fliers with the Gospel, Psalms and new and old Testament readings. She takes them to the Salvation Army Senior Center, where she works several days a week. Helen says, "Everyone looks forward to the readings every week."



Thank you, Helen, for the gift of your ministry and your dedication to our community.

## Congratulations & Happy Anniversary!

Grady Edge, husband of Shirley, was honored with a testimonial luncheon hosted by the Masons on Sept. 10. Grady is the Deputy for all the Masons in New York state. Shirley and Grady Edge celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary this summer. They travelled to Morristown, Tennessee to visit their niece and her family (Jack and Deborah Robinson) and attended a family reunion. Shirley describes it as a wonderful trip and beautiful drive!

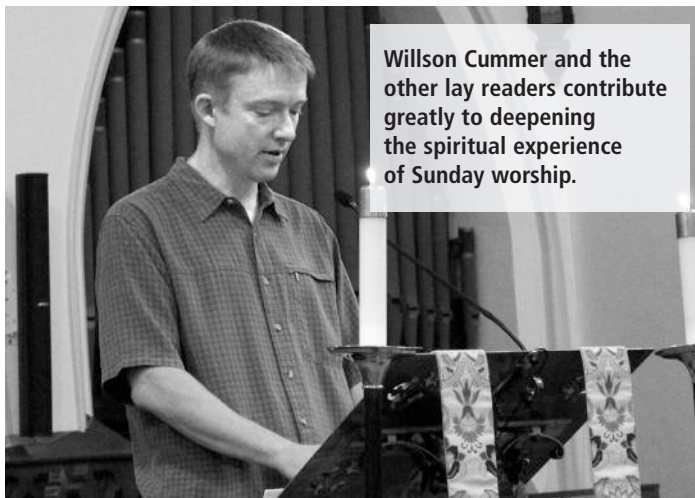


## Words To Live By

*"If you really want to be happy, noone can stop you."*

—Sister Mary Tricky

That's the message on display at the Adams cottage near Alexandria Bay. Bud and Judy Adams celebrate their 53th wedding anniversary this year, and all of us who have the blessing of their friendship know that they live by this sentiment.



Willson Cumber and the other lay readers contribute greatly to deepening the spiritual experience of Sunday worship.

## Patterson Family Trip & Reunion

Ernestine Patterson shared the news of her fabulous summer vacation. Ernestine and her sisters travelled across the US on their three-week vacation which culminated in a family reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Ernestine especially enjoyed visiting the Alamo and ruins of pueblo buildings. Taylor Handy, granddaughter of Chuck and Gloria Vanderpool, and Ernestine's granddaughters, Valia and LaTonya Patterson, also attended the family reunion. They are pictured, below right, at the reunion.



Dorothy Corsey, second from right, enjoying Sunday fellowship with visiting relatives.

## Terrific Family Visit!

Dorothy Corsey enjoyed a two-week visit with her sister-in-law, MaryAnn Segura, who travelled to Syracuse from her home in New Berie, Louisiana. Also visiting were Maryann's grandsons: DeBryson Demouchet, 18, graduated from West Gate High School in June and will be attending South Louisiana Technical College to study automotive, welding and business management. Joseph, 14, is a middle school student who likes basketball. Two-year-old Alphonso is nicknamed "Little Man."

# GRACE CHURCH TRANSITIONS

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We mourn the passing of two dear sisters in Christ.  
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

## Maryellen Waller

**M**aryellen Waller, 81, passed away peacefully on August 20, at Crouse Hospital. Maryellen leaves to mourn her passing, cherish her memory and celebrate her life, five children, Curtis Waller Jr. (Pearl) of San Diego, CA, Christine Belcher of Syracuse, Clarence Waller of Atlanta, GA, Harry Waller (Darlene) of Syracuse and Jaime L. Rohadfox of Charlotte, NC; a host of loving grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

### An excerpt from Mother Jennifer's Sermon at Maryellen's funeral

**I**remember when I met Maryellen Waller. I had been at Grace a week and was meeting with church members to get to know them. I was at Myrtle London's home and in walked Mary Ellen. She jumped right in with her concerns: "We really need to do something to take care of our youth," she told me. "They're in trouble and getting into trouble."

That was her passion. I listened and found myself suddenly wanting to say "Yes, Ma'am." Mary Ellen didn't mess around with niceties, she said what was on her mind, and what was important. I got it and I never forgot it.

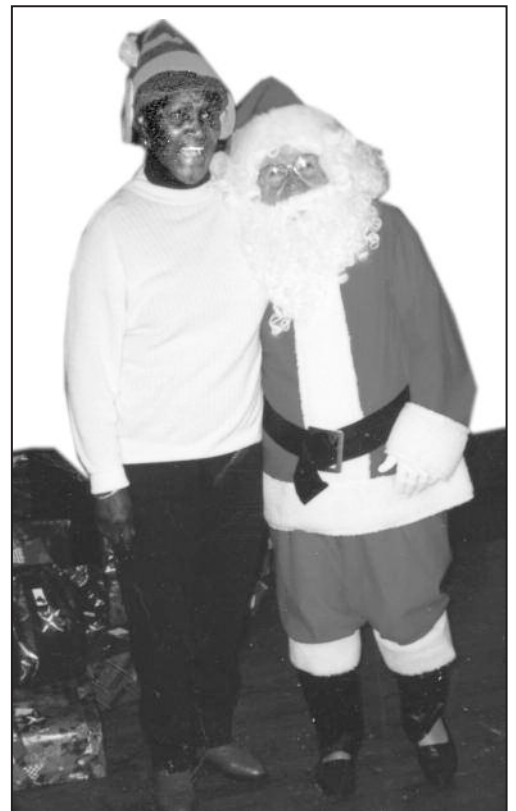
Life was not always easy for Mary Ellen. But all the while she cared for and took care of others. Whether it was calling her dear friend Myrtle to check in for the day, or crocheting an afghan to keep you warm in the colder months, Maryellen's heart was large and her faith was solid.

There is a grace in the way that Mary Ellen passed from this life into the next — a quiet slipping away into that good night, a movement with one breath into the arms of her Lord.

And so Maryellen finds herself now in a world of kindness and hospitality and fellowship, and this time it is a world eternal. Now instead of giving the gifts, she is receiving them. No longer the matriarch and gatherer of loved ones, she has been called to join the sacred circle and instead doing all the cooking—she now gets the seat of honor at the great banquet and she finally has the appetite to eat all she wants.

Maryellen taught us so much. She knew that God was at work in the world and that no one was beyond redemption. She has no doubt taught her family, friends, and loved ones, a life time of lessons—some learned the hard way—but her life and her legacy comes down to this: even when we can't express it, when our bodies betray us or when circumstances threaten to take us under—God is always at work within us, bringing us out of darkness into light, out of bondage, into freedom, out of death into life.

Maryellen will always be with us. You can probably still hear her voice in your ears—hold on to it. Whether it was Maryellen's voice of truth, voice of stubbornness or voice of love—hold on to it and keep her alive in your heart. Keep her alive in the choices you make. Her spirit and her love will endure.



Santa's Favorite Elf! Maryellen Waller and Connie Cutler made a great team when they gave out Christmas gifts to children at Grace.

## Gail Knox

Gail was the wife of the Rev. Jeffrey Knox who served as long-term supply at Grace prior to Mother Jennifer's arrival in 2004. Gail was a dearly loved member of the Grace family.

Gail Miller Knox peacefully went home to heaven on July 5, following a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. She was bathed by candlelight and music, surrounded by her family at home in Fulton. A young seventy year old spirit, she remains an adored grandmother, mother, wife and aunt.

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Jeffrey Knox; son, Andrew Knox, his spouse Doug Reid, their children, Jackson and Caroline; daughter, Amy Knox, her son Lennon; sister Mimi Miller, her spouse Robert and daughter, Marcie Jo.

Gail and Jeff moved to Fulton in 1974, to serve at All Saints' Episcopal Church, where they raised Andrew and Amy. Gail's life revolved around education, church, friends and family. For 20+ years, she taught students to enjoy math at Lanigan Elementary School. She co-founded story hour at the Fulton Library and helped create an ecumenical vacation Bible school for the City of Fulton. As a member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Oswego, she was a lay eucharistic minister, sang in the choir, taught church school and served on the altar guild. An ardent musician, she enjoyed singing in the Oswego Festival Chorus and church choirs.

Gail loved traveling, and was passionate about gardening and birding. She made her home a haven for creatures great and small. Probably her greatest life joy was being Grandma to Jackson, Caroline and Lennon.



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DATE 2011	9-4	9-11	9-18	9-25	10-2	10-9	10-16	10-23	10-30
OT-PSALM	Judith Brooks	Samantha Aitken	Willson Cummer	Sarah Reks	Lou Clark	Ernestine Patterson	Don Fudge	Rosa Clark	Judith Brooks
NT	TJ Geiger	Thane Joyal	Ernestine Patterson	Sabrina Coleman	Barbara Slater	John Auwaerter	Helen Pina	Willson Cummer	Nancy McCarty
INTER-CESSOR	Nancy McCarty	Emily Hollywood	John Auwaerter	Jeffrey Tamburo	Tim Hayes	Sarah Tucker	Bud Adams	Samantha Aitkin	Harrison Burrows
CHALICE	Helen Pina C. Vanderpool	Bud Adams Judith Brooks	Rosa Clark Mike Atkins	H. Burrows, Greta Jones	Don Fudge E. Patterson	Josie Atkins, Sarah Reks	Eddie Tyson, Judith Brooks	Helen Pina, C. Vanderpool	Rosa Clark, Greta Jones
SERVERS	H. Burrows, Jesse Davis, Emma Tucker	Shirley Edge Josh Aitken Tyler Aitken	Greta Jones, R. Auwaerter, E. Auwaerter	Josie Atkins Tyler Aitken Emma Tucker	TJ Geiger R. Auwaerter Jesse Davis	Shirley Edge, Josh Aitken, Tyler Aitken	H. Burrows, Jesse Davis, Emma Tucker	Greta Jones, E. Auwaerter, R. Auwaerter	TJ Geiger Tyler Aitken E. Auwaerter
Notes									
1. If you are unable to make your scheduled ministry, please arrange a substitute, preferably a week ahead or more. Call the church office with notice of the change to allow for correction of the bulletin.									
2. Contact John Auwaerter (426-9565, kandjauw@verizon.net) before the 15 <sup>th</sup> of the month with Sundays you will not be available in the following month.									
3. Each minister will receive a reminder notice in the mail the week prior to scheduled service.									

*Grace*  
CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)  
819 MADISON ST.  
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## MILESTONES

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### The Beautiful Radke/Casparie Wedding

**O**n Saturday, May 28 Mother Jennifer officiated at the wedding ceremony in SU's Hendricks Chapel of Lydia Radke, daughter of Gary and Nancy Radke, to Ernest Casparie. The couple met at Syracuse University and are now living in New Haven, Connecticut.



### Birthday Blessings

**H**appy Belated Birthday to two treasured members of the Grace Church family. Eugenia Braithwaite (far left) turned 90 in September and Myrtle London (near left) turned 93 in June. Wishing you both many blessing in this new year!