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DOORS OF GRACE



Roots and Wings

What an exciting time for Grace Episcopal Church! Our missionaries are getting ready to leave for South Carolina, where they'll find their wings while helping others and find their roots while growing further into faith. Included in this issue of "Doors of Grace" are several articles highlighting the things happening here. We hope that you will enjoy reading about them and about how our own roots and wings are growing all the time!

LAST YEAR'S YMO GROUP IN THE SEA ISLANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In This Issue of Doors of Grace

The end of spring and beginning of summer is always a busy time of year. The Men's (GEMs) and Women's (GEC) programs have both had a spiritually active year and are moving forward into the summer with no signs of slowing down. With the mission trip to the sea islands in South Carolina just around the corner, our youth ministry program is going strong, and our Academy is full of children who are ready to learn more in Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. Look ahead to see the many ministry opportunities at Grace. There is a place for YOU here!

A Letter from Our Rector

What does it mean to be a Christian? When we claim Jesus to be our Master and Savior, how do we live out our lives in the context of this post-Christian era? This is not an easy question to answer, especially when our way of life is more informed by the voice of popular culture than by the church. Society no longer honors the sanctity of Sundays.

Remember when Sunday mornings began at church and ended with the family gathering for a pot roast dinner at home or at grandma's house? Remember when stores were not allowed to be open on Sundays? Sundays were sacred.

The church struggles to respond to the challenges it faces in these changing times. Life is not like it was before, and discovering how to be relevant while maintaining its identity as the church can be an elusive process. We are faced with trying to live out the mission of the church with ideas and assumptions of days long gone, and yet we recognize that people relate, communicate, and encounter the world differently than before.

I have countless stories and examples how the church has dug in and failed to find a new way to be the church. Remember the joke, "How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?" "Zero, because Episcopalians never change!" We dig in to what we were and what we did in the past, and defend it with righteous vigor, only to miss the new and unfolding opportunity to live into a new way to become the church. What is familiar has the illusion of feeling safe in a changing environment, but it suffocates the living vitality of God and the life giving energetic wind of the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, we are confronted with the essential question, "is the mission of the church worth all of the painful discomfort of becoming a living and vital place for people to discover new life in Christ?" This is a tough question to answer honestly when the popular culture has the strongest voice, and "that's how we've always done it" is the guiding management principle. Regardless of the difficulty, it is an important question to answer, because it will either call us to be hospice workers to close the church, or be a midwife to welcome new life into the church.

In the pages of the Doors of Grace you will discover inclinations of new life that continues to emerge, and honest holy explorations to describe new life-giving, faith-based experiences. There are new energies occurring in the life of Grace Church; even though we do not know exactly what being the church will look like, there is movement of the Spirit. I see signs of stepping away from a consumer member identity to a listening sacred relational church, and that is life-giving good news. The church is on the move with God's Spirit. Take time to pray through these pages, take time to listen to the inclination of the Spirit, and say yes to the invitation to being a disciple of Christ.

Peace,
Fr. Chris

A Letter from Our Senior Warden

The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring.
~ Bernard Williams

“Spring” and “hope” are a perfect pair and I know I’m in good company sharing spring as my favorite season. Hope carries me through our cold Chicago winters — hope for longer days, hope for spring break, hope for the first morning I awake to birds singing. Spring has finally arrived, although it may have been more evident at Easter than the later rainy days of May!

At our annual meeting in early February, Alex Howson and I outlined the vestry priorities for 2017. Just three months into our work, exciting progress is under way. Watch for more parish-wide opportunities for fellowship, expanded programs with our Outreach partners, and spiritual formation especially focused on couples and families.

As spring transitions into summer, Grace Church will not slow down. In June over 40 parishioners: adults, youth and families, will travel to South Carolina for a transformative week with the Gullah people. June, July, and August will feature parish-wide cookout parties with guest music, game night, movie nights, and maybe even karaoke! Summer classes for the Academy keep the church vibrant during the week; Vacation Bible School will rock Grace in August.

Hope is alive in Grace Church! We all bring our unique gifts to enrich the circle of Grace. It has been an honor to serve as your warden for 2016/2017; I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you and hear your stories. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have a question, curiosity, or suggestion.

With gratitude,
Erin Drury



**HOLY WEEK AT GRACE
(PHOTOS BY ROBIN JAMES)**

Changing with the Times: The Anglican Shop through the Years

BY ALLISON PETERS

Many people in our parish know that the Anglican Shop has been a part of the fabric of Grace Church since 1961. What many people in our parish don't know is the history behind the shop and how the changing nature of the shop met our parish's needs through the years. Many thanks to Gwen Quackenbush for the history lesson! Here's how it all began:

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Tarrant were Grace parishioners with a lovely family of five children. Irving worked as a jewelry appraiser and Alice was very active at Grace and also at St. James Cathedral as part of a sewing ministry there. She would meet with other ladies from the Diocese to create layette sets for babies who would otherwise not have them. It was through this ministry that she met Mrs. Avery. When Mrs. Avery learned that Irving was a jewelry appraiser, she nervously asked Alice if she would have him look at some jewelry that her son, James, had made. She shyly pulled the jewelry from her pocketbook and handed it to Alice. When Alice looked at the silver crosses, she recognized the quality immediately and brought them to her husband who was equally delighted. She asked Mrs. Avery if she could sell some of these pieces at Grace Church. On Sunday after church Alice would pull the jewelry out of her black leather purse and everything sold so quickly that she returned the next week with a bulletin board covered in black velvet. That's how it all got started; the Anglican Shop started in Mrs. Alice Tarrant's pocketbook. As an aside, the gold cross behind the altar was commissioned by a parishioner and created by James Avery, who titled it, "The Grace Church Cross."



THE GRACE CHURCH CROSS

The first official shop space was in the room where our Sexton and the copy machine are now. Early in dealings with James Avery, he was asked to create crosses in two sizes of both sterling silver and gold for sale at the Anglican Shop. Many of our parishioners still wear their Grace Church cross necklaces with pride and love. Besides the James Avery jewelry line for which Grace Church had an exclusive agreement as the only carrier in the area, the shop sold prayer books, Bibles, and other religious books. Joan Hanson was the first director and the Anglican Shop name came from a suggestion from a fellow GEC member. In 1980, Fr. Hooten asked Daphne Wetmore, Susan McCain, and Gwen Quackenbush to head up the Anglican Shop as its popularity was increasing and it was becoming more work than one person could handle. Parishioners had started to ask for other items. Most often, they would come in looking for a gift for a baptism or confirmation and ask for something that would be appropriate for a wedding or a baby shower. The three directors started out very cautiously. They would only buy four of each item in stock. The idea was that, if an item didn't sell, they would buy it themselves (at full price, of course).

The ladies agreed that the mission of the shop was to be a funding arm of Outreach, with all proceeds going to our Outreach partners — a designation that has persisted. The shop continued to grow and cautiously moved into what is now Julie Pierce's office. As the space grew, so did the religious offerings. The wide selection of crèches was particularly exciting at Christmas time!

When Beverly Cook took over the director role, she decided that the shop had outgrown its space and moved it into its current place. The room had been a library, used for vestry meetings, and used as a room for brides to get ready before a wedding. She painted the room to be warm and inviting, added arm chairs for comfort and conversation, and encouraged the fellowship of the growing volunteer numbers. Beverly Cook remained the director for many, many years. When she retired in 2007, the GEC started officially running the shop and its offerings became more “popular” in addition to religious. It was then that the shop’s tagline, “Gifts for Gracious Living”, was established. For the next 10 years, Robyn Duncan, Susan Owens, Ellen Drury, Pat Kornmeyer, Becky Olsen, and many others dedicated countless hours to the shop, always ensuring that the proceeds went to Outreach.

In the meanwhile, our world and our parish was changing. The shop had a harder time turning a profit and attracting customers without a sign or banner outside. In addition, due to safety concerns, the church installed a security system and started to lock its doors during the day, making it harder for shoppers to access the shop. Plus, thanks to the rise of Internet shopping, would-be customers were also able to buy anything they wanted with a click of a button and have it delivered to their doors.

As for the parish, the men’s and women’s spiritual formation groups were meeting in large spaces like the Parish Hall or Guild Room, sometimes struggling to find a much-needed intimacy. The senior high youth group (YMO) moved to the Rectory, where the youth could feel more comfortable. Committees started to meet in priests’ offices, due to the often-confidential nature of the meetings, making for some awkward exchanges. While that was happening, our Academy’s leadership changed and, with that change, came new families flocking to Grace for the excellent programming. The children excelled, but the staff longed for a space for parents to gather for lectures, informal coffee hours, or private parent-teacher meetings. Without a comfortable smaller meeting space, our parish was missing out on opportunities to grow spiritually and in fellowship with each other.

Fr. Chris and the Vestry agreed that, due to the shop’s dwindling sales and the changing landscape of our parish life, the time had come for the shop to close.

Of course, our parishioners and friends will have an opportunity to shop at The Anglican Shop’s going-out-of-business sale. Effective immediately, everything in the shop is 50% off (all sales final) through June 9. Starting June 10, what remains will be sold at 75% off. It is the hope that everything that is not sold will be donated to one or split among several of our ministry partners by the end of June, in keeping with the shop’s mission to support our Outreach efforts.

It is with deep gratitude that we remember the many women who have devoted their time, energy, and love to the mission of this shop. The thousands of dollars from the shop have gone toward feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and bringing people together from different backgrounds in service to God. It all started with a little silver cross in Alice Tarrant’s black leather purse.

What will be the next great ministry to start from the smallest seed? “... For truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20)

THE ANGLICAN SHOP CLOSING TIMELINE

**NOW THROUGH JUNE 9:
50% OFF (ALL SALES FINAL)**

**JUNE 10 – JUNE 30:
75% OFF (ALL SALES FINAL)**

**JUNE 30:
REMAINING MERCHANDISE TO BE DONATED**

Getting to Know You: A Few Questions for Minister of Music, Andrew Fredel

BY ALLISON PETERS

When Andrew Fredel joined the Circle of Grace last August, we were thrilled to discover the new ways our music program could grow. Read on to get to know more about our organist, choir director, and, most importantly, our Minister of Music.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a Minister of Music?

A: God has given us music (and all the arts!) as a powerful, transcendent means by which we connect: our selves and our feelings (joy, lament, peace, sadness); connecting with us in Word and Sacrament. I am honored to help lead and facilitate the making of music in the Grace Church community, for these very relational reasons, both horizontally (person to person) and vertically (God to us). In this role, I take very seriously the opportunity to minister to the community, but also among the community as a whole.

Q: What attracted you to Grace?

A: I had a passing acquaintance with Grace prior to the search for a new parish musician. I was aware some very solid music-making had been going on, that the choral tradition was “a big deal”, and that generally this was a place that honored traditional music-making and liturgy greatly. Through the search process, I became attracted to a sense of “groundedness” — musically and liturgically — that Grace seemed to exhibit, especially in comparison to

the vastly divergent approaches in style and substance of other faith communities. As I got to better know the circumstances at Grace, I saw opportunities for the community to become even more aware of what constitutes “traditional”, both musically and liturgically, without sacrificing historical “groundedness.” These opportunities for growth, even within what is our own “flavor” excites me to no end!!!

Q: What is one thing that you would want people at Grace to know about you?

A: Sometimes, I know I might appear initially to be very formal or highly principled, perhaps somewhat distant; and, I am a bit shy. But I do honestly love getting to know folks, and hope that when that happens, you may see a warm, personable side to me, which genuinely cares about everyone. I’m grateful for what the search committee saw in me as a candidate, and particularly for Fr. Chris Pierce, who saw my experience, education, and presence as being “the right fit” for Grace Church.

Holy Week Reflections

BY MICHAEL HUBBARD

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and had never experienced Holy Week until I came to Grace. My first Holy Week experience at Grace was a little uncomfortable (especially having my priest wash my feet), but it truly capitalized my spiritual growth and now it is my absolute favorite week of the year for spirituality!

What amazed me even more is that I found an entirely new level of spiritual awakening during this year’s Good Friday service that was done entirely by the Grace Choir — I was flat-out blown away. It is something that I cannot really describe in words and therefore I highly recommend that everyone experience it for himself or herself. It was absolutely transforming!

The choral Good Friday service is just one more example of my favorite part of Grace. Fr. Chris, Andrew, and Grace continually provide new ways to experience spiritual growth and experience the Holy Spirit. We are truly blessed at Grace to have people like them who are dedicated to our spiritual growth.

Outreach Efforts: Dreaming, Feeling, Doing

BY DIRK GNODDE

This Outreach message is more about dreaming than doing, and more about feeling than facts. Without the dreaming and feeling Outreach doesn't achieve its full value and benefit.

Hopefully we all are aware that last year our Outreach efforts and dollars supported our YMO, Trinity Soup Kitchen and PADS, St. Helena/Santa Elena Church, HCS Family Services (formerly Hinsdale Community Services), ReVive Christmas Baskets, and Holy Family School.

This year as we consider our support for these worthy partners, but on a more limited budget, what drives and inspires us is the vision of a person not going to bed hungry, of a family temporarily without a roof transitioning to permanent housing, of our youth growing in community and compassion, of a child feeling love and self-worth on a Christmas morning, and of a teenager on Chicago's West Side being educated in a safe and nurturing environment by staff who earn below market wages, but who give 110%.

As you think about Outreach in your life and the life of Grace Church, dream and feel, so that you get full spiritual reward from helping those in need.

Editor's Note: Our Outreach program offers something for everyone! A recent restructuring of the program means that now you can go directly to a designated "Champion" for each ministry partner to learn how to be more involved. (See the table below for contact information.) We are excited to be doing hands-on work with each of our ministry partners, learning about ourselves and growing spiritually, as they teach us more than we could ever get from a book. If you have a cause that you feel strongly about championing, you are invited to talk to Dirk Gnodde about how you can become more involved in Outreach at Grace.

OUTREACH CHAMPIONS: YOUR GO-TO PEOPLE FOR OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS

HCS FAMILY SERVICES:
SARA CLARY

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL:
DIRK GNODDE

ST. HELENA/SANTA ELENA:
DAVID ARCH

REVIVE CATHEDRAL BASKETS:
TONI PRITCHARD

TRINITY SOUP KITCHEN:
MICHAEL WORRALL &
TONY MARUCSSEN

YMO:
KRISTY WHITE



**OUR RECENT
FORMATION
DINNER WITH
ST. HELENA'S/
SANTA ELENA**

Grace Episcopal Churchwomen (GEC)

BY EDEN HILL

The GEC is a longstanding and vibrant group at Grace Episcopal Church — all women of the church are part of the GEC and are welcome and encouraged to participate in any way that suits them. This year the GEC received new direction from Fr. Chris to channel our energies into fellowship, formation, and spiritual growth. Fundraising will no longer be something the GEC, on its own, needs to spearhead.

To align with our new direction, the GEC Board agreed to add the role(s) of Spiritual Advisor/Liaison to the GEC Board and remove the role of Treasurer. We also updated our mission to the following:

“The Mission of the GEC is to foster fellowship for all women of Grace through social and spiritual formation.”

Our theme this year was being “Connected in Grace”. How can we connect to God, to each other, and with ourselves more fully? The GEC Board fostered connection through the following, some new and some long-standing, traditions:

- October Holiday Market and Preview Party
- October session on Meditation with Father Chris
- December Christmas Tea
- January Feed Our Starving Children (dads and kids joined us)
- February Women’s Retreat at The Port
- February Ladies Night Out
- February/March Lenten Series Program (“Five Marks of Love”)
- May Cinco de Mayo end-of-year celebration

Thanks to the 2016-2017 Board (Eden Hill, Kristy White, Kendall Kay, Jill Forsythe, Barb Schwartz, Diane Shalda, and Sara Clarkson), along with the other fabulous women who helped make our fellowship and spiritual connection points above successful.

We look forward to an exciting 2017-2018 with Kristy White as our new President, along with a great new Board that includes Sara Clary (Vice President), Jill Forsythe (Secretary), Barb Schwartz and Diane Shalda (Spiritual Advisor/Liaison), and Sara Clarkson and myself as Past Presidents. Please reach out to Kristy if you have ideas or would like to get more involved. All are welcome!



OUR WOMEN’S SPIRITUAL RETREAT WITH GUEST LECTURER GERRY EITNER



GEC SERVICE PROJECT AT FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Grace Episcopal Men (GEMs)

BY PRESTON TIMS

GEMs is a dynamic group of gentlemen in search of Formation, Fellowship, and Outreach. We are currently engaged in a spiritual journey to discover Christ within us via an examination of Christ's teachings as expressed in the Beatitudes. We will continue our study of each of the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount as set forth in Matthew. The journey will be highlighted by our bi-annual retreat in the fall.

We also look forward to our annual golf outing in June, which will not only be a great (albeit humbling) time, but will also serve as a fundraiser for our Outreach partners. The GEMs other interests include cooking open-pit paella feasts, attending various sporting events, and volunteering our time and talents in the community. We look forward to your participation!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- JUNE 10:** MEN'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION BREAKFAST (GEMs)
(7:30 AM BREAKFAST/8:30 AM PROGRAM)
- JUNE 11:** HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY (10:00 AM)
- JUNE 18:** SUMMER SERVICE TIME CHANGE (8:00 AM/9:30 AM)
- JUNE 24:** BURGERS & BRATS BONANZA (PARISH-WIDE EVENT)
- JUNE 29:** GEMs NIGHT GOLF OUTING (6:30 PM DINNER/7:30 PM GOLF)

STAY CONNECTED

FACEBOOK:

@graceepiscopalchurchhinsdale
@gcahinsdale
@youthmissionsorganization

INSTAGRAM:

@gracechildrensacademy
@graceepiscopalchurchhinsdale

PINTEREST:

@gracehinsdale

TWITTER:

@YMOHinsdale

YOUTUBE:

Grace Episcopal Church Hinsdale

HASHTAGS:

#GatherGiveGrowGrace
#ExcelAndGrowInGrace
#YMOHinsdale

Communications Corner

BY ALLISON PETERS

We're working hard on getting the word out about Grace and we need your help! Grace is officially claimed on Google and Yelp!, both of which use the Yelp! reviews to rate businesses and, in our case, churches. If you can, please take a minute and rate your experience at Grace. The more positive reviews we get, the higher we climb on search engines. Thank you for your help!

As an update, we are in the process of updating our church website. (The Academy website was updated last year and was designed to be a sister site to our church page. Take a look to get a feel for what's in store for us: www.gracechildrensacademy.org.) Our hope is that the new page will be up and running by the end of the summer. Stay tuned and thank you for your patience!

Lastly, if you're interested in helping with our communications, we are looking to create a communications committee to work on social media and traditional media projects. If you're interested, please contact Allison Peters (info@gracehinsdale.org). Thank you for your time and talent!

Grace Academy: A Foundation of Love

BY JULIE PIERCE

Early Childhood Education has been an important ministry of Grace Episcopal Church for over 64 years. Founded in 1953 as Grace Church Nursery School, Grace Academy is the longest running preschool program in Hinsdale. Although the Academy has changed over time to respond to the needs of the community, one constant has remained true: Grace is an Episcopal school.

The National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) identifies Episcopal schools as being: "Christian communities whose missions integrate spiritual formation into all aspects of the educational experience. Episcopal schools are most distinctive when they are true to this mission and when they do so in the graceful and inclusive manner which is the hallmark of the Anglican approach to education over the centuries."

Our identity as an Episcopal school is vitally important and should not be taken for granted. Episcopal schools have a long, rich history of providing high-quality education, founded on the Episcopal traditions of worship, servant leadership, inclusion, and spiritual formation. Above all, Episcopal schools exist not merely to educate, but to demonstrate and proclaim the unique worth and beauty of all human beings as creations of a loving, empowering God. Episcopal schools are founded on the love of God and the belief that God calls us to love all of God's children. As one of only four Episcopal schools in Illinois, we have a duty to uphold our Episcopal Identity by living into these traditions and instilling this foundation of love in our teachers, students, families, community, and world.

An Episcopal education begins with the premise that we are all created in love. Love for students, for their value as children of God, for their unique gifts, must be the foundation of all we do. We must act out of love, teach love, model love, and love one another in our community above all else. Without this love, all else is meaningless.



Children's Spiritual Formation at Grace Church

BY MEGAN MANNOR

It's a brisk spring morning, and 4-year-old Rose hops out of the car for preschool. Instead of turning down the hall toward the classroom, she takes a right into the sanctuary. She bounces in and scooches into the first row next to her friends, and starts to sing and clap along with 40 other little voices, "Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory! ..."

It's Wednesday, and Wednesday is Chapel day for the Academy. This year, Julie Pierce and I as Academy Directors, instituted a school-wide Chapel day once a week. On these mornings, children sing songs together and learn about God. Monthly themes included "God Made Me Special", "I Can Talk to God", "I Have a Grateful Heart", and "God Loves Me No Matter What". Each Wednesday, Kate Timm plays the guitar and leads songs and I teach a lesson using a story or skit. Their worship time ends with a prayer and one more song.

On this day, Rose gets picked to help with the lesson. She and her friend Eloise get to hide in the choir loft. Everyone else closes their eyes while they find a good hiding spot. Where could they be?

"They must be gone, " I say.

"NO!" says a chorus of voices.

"Yes!" I reply, "I can't see them. I think they left. If I can't see them, they can't be here. I think Rose and Eloise went home."

"No, they are over there!" say the ones who peeked.

Today's lesson is about faith. Blind faith. We can believe, even in things we cannot see. Once Rose and Eloise reveal themselves to still be in the church, all of the children fold their hands and close their eyes (because they have already learned this fall that they can talk to God). Mrs. Mannor thanks God for this time they have together and asks that this week He help them all to believe that God is always there for them, even if they can't see Him. Amen.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

JULY 31 – AUGUST 3

Our work will continue this summer with Vacation Bible School. We will need many volunteers for this event. We are expecting over 100 children. If you can help with VBS, please contact Megan Mannor megan@gracechildrensacademy.org.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth:
make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise."
Psalm 97



ROSE AND ELOISE HELP IN CHAPEL

Spiritual Transformation, Everyday Miracles, YMO

BY KRISTY WHITE

The Youth Missions Organization (YMO) was conceived by Father Chris in 1989 while serving his congregation in Massachusetts. He was struck by a story he saw on a news program about the history and current culture of the Gullah people of the sea islands in South Carolina. Fr. Chris, along with two others, Fr. Ron Trembley and Jerry Nightingale, began their journey to design and implement a youth program that would touch the lives of thousands of youth and adults throughout the nation as well as other parts of the world. The program was recognized by the Bush Administration for the work they had done on behalf of the Gullah people. Father Chris brought YMO to Grace Church in 2012 and has led missionaries on annual week-long trips each summer. I had the great privilege of having dinner with Fr. Chris, Julie, and Fr. Ron who was recently in town from Tulsa, Oklahoma. And this is what they had to say.

“Missions is about changing the heart. You change one heart, you change the world.” They have seen countless examples of missionaries getting in touch with “what is” and that is their heart. When on missions, participants get to a space where they can contemplate the truth and turn that truth into a oneness — this oneness is about each other and the people they are serving. We are all the same.

Stories were flowing and it was difficult to jot down all that they had to say. I was mesmerized. In this world where stories of chaos and confusion spill into our lives daily, the stories of purity of heart, miracles, and life transformation gives hope and clarity, just as Jesus had preached. Julie spoke of her favorite miracle moment: While there were many prayers answered on Missions — prayers for ladders, a new air conditioner, and even a truck — all showing up one way or another, the miracle of the well-digger turned her heart. Funds were raised for a well that would be the source of water for the family they were helping. YMO came up with \$1,300 of the \$2,700+ necessary. The missionaries committed to prayer and the next day a white-haired man with overalls showed up on-site and told them he was a digger. They asked him what he would charge and his reply was \$1,300 — prayers answered. The miracles showed up every trip; the stories of transformation were profound; the impact of the work was great. But greater still are the possibilities that await the missionaries each and every trip. It gives them the “away” where they don’t know what the outcome will be. It gives them everything necessary to grow in God. As Fr. Chris has taught, “It’s not the answer, it’s the question that is important. It’s making yourself vulnerable to get to the One.”

To sum up YMO and its mission, Fr. Chris and Fr. Ron stated the principles of what they have learned:

1. Trust
2. Openness
3. Knowing it’s about inner poverty, not outer poverty
4. Identifying where God dwells
5. Knowing that God will provide

On June 17, over 40 missionaries will depart from Grace Church to join the Gullah people of the sea islands in South Carolina for a week of home building and fellowship. Supported by the parishioners of Grace Church, these students and adults will be wrapped in prayer for their safety, transformation and open hearts. YMO is open to all high school students and meets each Sunday evening throughout the school year.

Editor’s Note: As a parish, we cover our missionaries in prayer for the duration of their trip. Please see the SignUp Genius link in your weekly email from Grace to sign up for a time to pray. You may also call Sherry in the church office (630-323-4900) to sign up. Thank you for holding our youth and sponsors in your hearts as they follow a call to know and serve God.