



Elections for vestry, delegates set for Jan. 27

Profiles of the nominees begin on Page 3

Grace Church members are encouraged to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 27 at 5:00 p.m. Come early at 4:30 p.m. and enjoy dessert before the meeting begins. Child care will be provided.

The Annual "State of the Church" report will be presented. A new warden and five new Vestry members will be elected, and delegates to the Diocesan Convention will be chosen. Meet the nominees for these positions in Hanahan Hall today at 10:10 a.m. Nominees for Vestry are

Robert Behre, Cindy Blackburn, Milton Boykin, Julie Hussey, Ian MacDonald, Amy Mathisen, Anne J. Rhett, Andrew Smith and Bill Trawick.

Grace's four convention delegates consist of the two wardens, plus two others who are elected. Four alternates are also elected to serve in the event that a delegate is unable to attend a convention.

Jamie Kerr has been named by the Rector as the new People's (Junior) Warden, joining Elsa McDowell, who becomes the Rector's (Senior) Warden. Nominees for delegates are Ted Halkyard, Lee Hershon, Ann Smith, Ann Stirling, Will Suggs and Rob Wendt.



Jamie Kerr

Wednesday Nights at Grace: 'Embracing the Community'

January 16 will bring the return of Wednesday Nights at Grace and another chance to experience Gullah music with The Magnolia Singers.

The theme for the spring season of Wednesday programs is "Embracing the Community." The full lineup will run through April 16, with a break for Ash Wednesday on February 6.

Here is the schedule of programs:

January 16

"A Gullah Experience"

The Magnolia Singers

The Magnolia Singers, who give regular concerts throughout the Charleston area, offer a glimpse into the roots of American music through the rich tradition of Gullah music and spirituals.

January 23

**On the Eve of the
Charleston Renaissance**

Doug Bostick

Enjoy the sights and sounds of turn of the century Charleston with historian, author, book publisher

and gifted storyteller, Doug Bostick.

January 30

**Church Life in the Community and its Impact on
Government**

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

Joseph P. Riley, Jr. is serving his eighth term as Mayor of the City Charleston. He was first elected in December, 1975. Under his leadership, Charleston has made substantial progress in the standard of living, achieved remarkable growth in size and population, experienced revitalization of the historic downtown business district, seen the creation and growth of Spoleto Festival U.S.A. The City of Charleston is now recognized as one of the most livable and progressive cities in the United States.

February 6

Ash Wednesday

(no program)

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

**February 13
Theatre 99 Company
Comedy Improv
The Have Nots!**

Enjoy a fun-filled evening of unscripted hilarity based on suggestions from the audience.

**February 20
Preservation and More
Kitty Robinson**

One of the country's premier preservation organizations, Historic Charleston Foundation, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2007. Its Executive Director, Kitty Robinson, will highlight past accomplishments and present initiatives and considerations for the future.

**February 27
Gates, Grates and Windows of Charleston
Scott & Stacy Gould**

Jewelry designers Scott and Stacy Gould of B Gould and Company, artisans who designed the Grace Church Altar Cross pendant, will present the inspiration behind the famous Gates, grates and Windows of Charleston Collection.

**March 5
Critical Issues Facing the Charleston Region and the Prospect for Conservation
Dana Beach**

The Coastal Conservation League was founded in 1989 to

protect the natural environment of the South Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life of our coastal communities. Its founder, Dana Beach, will discuss twenty years of conservation work, the expansion of the Charleston Port, and a conservation agenda for the next decade.

**March 12
Mediation:
An Instrument of Peace
Ann Stirling, Mark Andrews
and Tricia Wilson**

A course on restoring peace during conflict in weary marriages through mediation and forgiveness led by attorney and Grace member Ann Stirling and presented by Mark Andrews, mediator, and Tricia Wilson, CPA. Come learn how couples experiencing relationship conflict can use mediation to chart a new way to live together forever or, if that is impossible, to pursue a peaceful resolution, thereby allowing healing to begin and peace to be restored.

**March 19
Wednesday in Holy Week
A Seder Meal**

Christians and Jews share a common heritage. At sundown, Jews around the world sit down to a Seder, the ritual dinner that begins the eight day Passover celebration. As a Church family, we will share in the six ceremonial foods that tell the story of Passover, experience the song and ceremony, and recite the story told for thousands of years about the Jews' Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

**March 26
Lights, Camera, Charleston
Richard Futch**

Charleston is a popular destination for filmmakers seeking a variety of backdrops for their films. Casting Director Richard Futch will present scenes of locations in

the Lowcountry used in various film productions. The person correctly identifying the greatest number of locations will be rewarded by being an extra on the set of an upcoming film!

**April 2
Grace Under Pressure:
Stitches, Rods and Grout
Dan Beaman and Craig Bennett**

Using the song from *Porgy and Bess*, "T'ain't Necessarily So", architect Dan Beaman will present the history of the architectural changes to Grace Church over the years, and structural engineer Craig Bennett will share the scientific approaches we are using to address our structural needs in Saving Grace for the Future.

**April 9
When Grace Stopped Shaking:
Heroes of the Earthquake
of 1886
Richard Côté**

On August 31, 1886, the most catastrophic earthquake ever to strike east of the Mississippi roared through Charleston, devastating 67% of its churches, other brick buildings, and all of its hospitals. 40,000 of the city's 60,000 residents were homeless the next morning. But due to the extraordinary teamwork between the city's leaders, clergy, and residents, emergency services were available to all – black and white – within a week. Award-winning Charleston author, Richard N. Côté, author of *City of Heroes: The Great Charleston Earthquake of 1886*, will share the amazing story of the city's heroes at Grace Church.

**April 16
Old Fashion Hymn Sing
with the choirs of Grace Church**

Dr. Scott Bennett, Grace's Organist and Master of the Music, will direct the choirs in singing old and new favorite hymns.

Words
of *Grace*

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Deadline for the February edition is
12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 16

VESTRY NOMINEES

Robert Behre



Robert Fuller Behre and his wife Holly have been members of Grace for sixteen years. Along with their children, Doro-

thy, 16, Henry, 14, and Joseph, 7, they have been involved in numerous ministries at Grace. He has served regularly at the 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. services as Lay Eucharistic Minister, chalice bearer and usher; he has also been a Stephen Minister, worked on the Habitat for Humanity project, and has served breakfast at the Shelter as often as his schedule would permit. Robert is a journalist with 20 years experience and enjoys listening to people.

Robert states, "I would like to give something back to this church, which has given much to my family. I want to help Grace realize its full potential for spiritually enriching and caring for our congregation, especially our children, while also continuing our tradition of reaching out to the larger community."

Cindy Blackburn



Cindy Blackburn, a former Presbyterian, visited Grace Church upon moving to Charleston 15 years ago and never

left. She met her husband John here; they were married here, and she was confirmed here. She says the liturgy and all the fantastic programs and opportunities at Grace appeal to her.

A teacher of history at Trident Technical College, Cindy describes herself as conscientious, energetic, willing and eager to learn, and possessing a good sense of humor.

Cindy says, "I am devoted to Grace Church and feel blessed to be a part of this congregation. I am pleased by the open-minded and inclusive example Grace Church has offered our diocese, especially during the past few years. Grace Church has made me a stronger and better person, and I would be honored to serve on the Vestry if elected to do so."

Milton Boykin



Milton Lee Boykin was confirmed at Grace and he and his wife Catherine have been members for over 20 years. He has served in

many capacities, including three years as vestry member and membership chair, outreach chair, and secretary. He served on the clergy search committee that called the Reverend Donald McPhail as Rector, and on the adult education planning committee. In addition, he developed a program series for Wednesday nights, taught and attended adult classes, oversaw participation at the Crisis Ministries Shelter for three years, and has been a Tea Room volunteer. He attends Kanuga weekends and is involved in parish life activities.

Retired as a Captain in the U.S. Navy, his administrative experience includes being chair of the Political Science and Criminal Justice Department at The Citadel, where he has taught and advised hundreds of students. Milton was co-founder of the Charleston Foreign Affairs Forum, and conducted a two-year series of symposiums sponsored by the National Endowment for Humanities on gifted black writers. He says his reasons for wishing to serve on the Vestry include supporting Saving Grace; maintaining the practices, customs and traditions we've grown to love; supporting our clergy in making Grace an even better place; and doing what he can to insure that Grace Church remains in the Episcopal Church.

(More nominee profiles on next page)

You're invited to a Lenten Home Eucharist

During Lent, dozens of Grace members' homes will become "church" for an evening. Friends and neighbors invite Jesus Christ into their midst with Holy Eucharist led by a Grace priest, followed by a simple supper. Everyone is encouraged to be part of a Home Eucharist during Lent; dates are available from February 11 through March 13. Details and sign-up forms have been mailed to homes. You can also sign-up and get more information online at gracechurchcharleston.org.

VESTRY NOMINEES

Julie Hussey



Julie Cofer Hussey has been a member of Grace for 14 years. Her family consists of her husband Bill and sons William, 4, and Walker, 2.

Her current activities include Memminger Project Teacher Assistant, Little School parent, Children's Chapel volunteer, Nursery volunteer, the prayer life of the church, Grace Mamas, and Grace Cares.

In the past she has co-chaired Grace Cares for two years, trained as a Koinonea Group leader, taught 7-8th grade Sunday School, helped with the EYC youth group, and led a group of parents looking at their faith.

Julie says she has known the church through a number of roles including newcomer, single, married, parent, local business owner, neighbor, school mom, one with needs, and one with an abundance to give. Her public relations and community outreach firm specializes in construction and community orientated projects.

She states, "Grace Church is my extended Charleston family. It has been there as my faith has evolved and grown from a life about me to one with children. Serving on the Vestry – and even simply in the election process for the Vestry – is my way of beginning to give back some of what has been given to me."

More nominee profiles are on page 3

Ian MacDonald



John W. "Ian" MacDonald, Jr. Ian and his wife Margaret have been members of Grace Church since 1985. He has

served as usher, lector, intercessor, chalice bearer, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, greeter, Grace Guide and Tea Room maitre d'.

A former submarine officer and retired engineer with an MBA, Ian is a lifelong Episcopalian. He has been a vestry member, was Acolyte Master for 17 years, and has been a licensed lay reader since 1970.

Ian states that he would like to serve on the Vestry because Grace is unavoidably involved in two great challenges: Saving Grace, and the evolving schism within our diocese and the Episcopal Church USA. He feels that Saving Grace is ably led and will succeed. He points out that Grace is one of the few parishes in our diocese that represents moderation. He states, "Our Rector and Clergy need a vestry that is solidly supportive as they continue to represent the position of moderation. Whether elected to the Vestry or not, I absolutely support their judgment and positions.

"My primary interest is worship and my secondary interest is outreach, activities that have been ably supported by outgoing vestry members.

"Although I am retired, if elected I will arrange to be present for all vestry activities."

Amy Mathisen



Amy E. Mathisen is a long-time member of Grace Church; her family consists of her husband Trey, daughter Caroline,

6, and son Thomas, 4. She is and has been involved in a variety of activities including Guild of the Christ Child (2003-present), Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, 2007 VBS assistant director, and 2008 VBS director. She is currently a member of the Little School Advisory Council.

Having a legal background, Amy feels she would bring to the vestry a practical approach to problem solving, mediation and people skills.

The main reasons Amy desires to serve on the vestry are her love for Grace Church and a sincere interest in seeing it continue to grow and thrive. Amy states, "Grace Church has given my family so much over the years, thus I would be honored with the opportunity to give my service back to the church."

Parish Directories

We are preparing to publish the 2008 directories, and want your listing to be accurate. If you've had a change of email, phone or address in the last 12 months and haven't notified Grace, please call 723-4575 or email bmartin@gracesc.org to let us know.

VESTRY NOMINEES

Anne Rhett



Anne Jervey Rhett is a lifetime member of Grace and widow of Frank Rhett. Her children are Anne Jervey, a student at

Duke, and Rutledge, a junior at Bishop England High School.

She has taught Sunday School many times, has coordinated/volunteered to decorate the Crisis Ministries Shelter for Christmas, helped with the HALOS Christmas Party, has sung carols at Bishop Gadsden, volunteered at the Tea Room, attends Sunday School and belongs to the Barnabas Group.

Anne says Grace has always been a huge part of her life. She experienced "Grace's grace" when her husband Frank became ill; during that time she participated in Barnabas and was touched by Grace's outreach programs and the reaching out by individual parishioners and clergy.

Anne's academic and career background has been focused on communications (Master of Communications degree) and education. She is a certified high school English teacher, has taught at the College of Charleston and has co-authored three editions of the Visitor's Guide to Charleston. She has been published in newspapers and magazines, worked in television, and, in addition, she is certified as a mediator. Anne says, "I would love to give back to this beautiful church community."

Andrew Smith



A member of Grace Church for 14 years, Andrew Smith met and married Audrey here, and they have a daughter,

Eliza.

Andrew has served as a youth volunteer with four youth ministers over those 14 years. He has been a vestry member, coffee host, usher, greeter, Little School Board member, and outreach volunteer. In addition, he and Audrey have attended Foyer groups, he has served on the Stewardship Committee and Newcomers Committee, and has been a leader of the Adult Christian Education class.

Andrew says, "Grace Church is family! I met and married my wife Audrey at Grace. We had Eliza, and she was baptized at Grace. Grace is a vital part of our life, every day, not just on Sunday and Wednesday. As a member of the Grace family, I want to serve."

Bill Trawick



Charles William Trawick has been CEO of Bishop Gadsden retirement community since its beginning 22 years ago,

involved in planning, fund raising and securing financing for \$100 million in construction for the community, which houses 420 residents and has 325 employees. He has experience working with a Board of Trustees, Diocesan leadership, architects, financial consultants/lenders, donors and contractors as well as residents, families and friends of Bishop Gadsden.

He has been a member of Grace Church for 21 years, and, during that time, he has served as an usher and Tea Room server. Bill feels that as a vestry member he could apply some of the experience gained in his work at Bishop Gadsden to assist in the important activities now in process at Grace.

Bill says, "Specifically, I would see my contributions to center on the construction/renovations that will be ongoing in the foreseeable future; strategic planning which I think is critical to the success of any organization (it has been at Bishop Gadsden); and my long-term relationship with the clergy and leadership of the Diocese in this time of change and uncertainty."

Join a Foyer Group

Now's the time to join a Foyer Group and get to know your fellow parishioners better. These are groups of 6-8 people who plan simple get-togethers to allow people to get to know each other. Sign up in Hanahan Hall on Sundays or use the sign-up form at gracechurchcharleston.org. Deadline is January 21.

DELEGATE NOMINEES

Ted Halkyard



Edwin M. "Ted" Halkyard and his wife Joan came to Grace Church in 1998. He has served in a number of leadership

capacities, including warden, vestry member, and stewardship chair, and his ongoing involvement on the Saving Grace Steering Committee.

Ted says his vision is "to fairly represent the unique character of Grace Church in all matters arising at Diocesan conventions – to bridge, where possible, our canonical allegiance to both the diocese and the National Church. While striving to achieve a reconciliation of current differences between our diocese and the Episcopal Church, I would not find it acceptable to support schism or isolation."

Lee Hershon



Lee Hershon has been attending Grace Church since 1996 and was baptized on All Saints Day, 1999. He has

served as lector, intercessor, usher, and chalice minister. He was on the Vestry for three years and served as committee chair for Adult Education and Planned Giving. In addition, he has completed training as a Stephen Minister as well as the four-year course in Education for Ministry (EFM). Lee currently is in discernment for the Diaconate.

**Vestry nominee profiles
are on pages 3, 4 and 5**

Ann Smith



Ann Bell Smith has been a member of Grace for forty years, and she and Backman raised two sons and a daughter

here. Their daughter Merritt Kellett, Merritt's husband Wim, and the three young Kellett boys also attend Grace.

Ann has been involved in many activities at Grace, including vestry, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, Stephen Minister, member of the Handbasket Group, Vacation Bible School teacher, volunteer for Tea Room, and a member of ECW. She has been a Grace Calls volunteer and stewardship secretary, and participated in Barnabas Group, the Vision 90 capital fund, and the Bishop Gadsden Advisory Council.

Trinity Foundation class offered Wednesdays starting Jan. 23

Grace Church will offer the first course of the Trinity Foundation for Christianity and Culture series starting this month.

The class will be taught by Dr. Lester Pittman and the Reverend Donald McPhail, and will last seven sessions, from January 23 through March 12 (skipping Ash Wednesday, February 6). The class will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Meadowcroft Room.

The TFCC courses were started at Holy Trinity Church in London by Bishop Michael Marshall and the Reverend Nadim Nassar. Grace was the first American church to pilot

the TFCC course two years ago. The goal of TFCC is to help Christians grow "deeper in faith and wider in perspective."

The first course is "*Citizens of Two Kingdoms: Life in the Global Village*." It examines how Christians should respond to the challenges and opportunities of living in a culturally and religiously diverse society, the effects of globalization and the resulting rise of fundamentalism.

Space is limited to 25 participants. Registration and a \$10 fee are required. For more information, please contact Lester Pittman at 971-0746.



**The Trinity
Foundation
for
Christianity
and Culture**

DELEGATE NOMINEES

Ann Stirling



Ann Stirling has been a member of Grace Church for 12 years and has been involved in many ministries and activities. She

has been a vestry member, chalice bearer, lector, intercessor, chair of the Outreach Advisory Committee, editor of Lenten Meditations for ten years, and a member of the Bell Choir.

Ann states, "I am willing to serve and represent what I have discerned to be Grace's interests."

Wednesday class looks at retirement

A new Wednesday evening offering, "Planning for the Later Years," is designed to open discussion about looking ahead and planning proactively for retirement and beyond. The meetings will be seminar-style with print resources and guests attending.

The schedule will commence on Wednesday, January 16 and run for four weeks. The topics for the meetings will be financial, social, medical and spiritual challenges for the later years. We will meet in the Dotterer Library following the parish dinners. Please let the Reverend Paul Gilbert know if you will be attending so that a notebook and resources can be reserved for your use. Contact him at pgilbert@gracesc.org or 723-4575.

Rob Wendt



Robertson H. Wendt, Jr. and his family, consisting of wife Priscilla and daughter Allison, have been members of

Grace Church for five years. His involvement at Grace includes co-chair of Saving Grace for the Future, vestry member 2005 to present, Stewardship Chair 2005-2006, Finance Committee 2005-2007, Planned Giving Committee 2006, Music Committee 2007 to present, chalice bearer, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, usher, Sunday School teacher, and Stephen Minister. He hopes that his experience as an active member in many aspects of parish life would help him to be a true representative of Grace Church at our Diocesan Convention.

Rob says, "Grace Church has set an example of tolerance and Christian love during a time of rancor and division in both the secular world and in the Episcopal Church. If elected to serve as a Diocesan delegate, I would advocate for healing of the divisions within the Episcopal Church and refocusing of the energy of the Diocese on our common ministry and mission."

Will Suggs



Wilbert Carroll Suggs, III, came to Grace in 1995, where he met and married Nancy. They have a son, Wilbert IV,

and daughter, Mary Patterson, both baptized at Grace.

His activities and ministries at Grace Church include vestry member, Pastoral Care, clerk, member of the Search Committee for the present Rector, member of the Search Committee for Director of Christian Education (past and present), Foyer Group participant, Sunday School teacher, EFM, chalice bearer, lector, and former participant with Amazing Grace.

Will states, "I consider myself a moderate Episcopalian, which is difficult to be in a time when extremes in the denomination expect a person to choose sides unequivocally. While I do not agree with every decision that the national church has made, I likewise do not support every decision that our diocese has made either. Our diocese's departure from the denomination is not an appropriate remedy to the problems we are facing as Episcopalians."



Ex-officio delegates

Elsa Freeman McDowell, left, has served a year as People's Warden and becomes Rector's Warden in 2008. Jamie Kerr has been named by the Rector to serve as the new People's Warden.

Sunday morning classes offered for adults

Here are the upcoming classes for adults on Sunday mornings. Classes begin at 10:10 a.m. You are welcome to get a cup of coffee and some refreshments in Café Au Lay (Preschool Room D) before joining your class.

January 13

Meet the nominees for Vestry and Diocesan Convention delegates in Hanahan Hall.

January 20

Book Table for All Ages – Prayer Books, Bibles, Lenten devotionals recommended by Grace Church clergy, inspirational books, and a variety of spiritual resources will be on display and sale in Hanahan Hall.

Adult Bible Study series on “The Bible and Money” continues in the Dotterer Library.

Soul Searching and Prayer resumes its weekly meetings in Preschool Room F with Sue Duckworth.

January 27

Introduction to ‘American Idols’ – The clergy present a preview of the Lenten Adult Education Program.

January 27 (continued)

Episcopal Church 101 – Dr. Lester Pittman leads a two-part discussion of who we are and how we got here, in the Meadowcroft Room.

Adult Bible Study meets in the Dotterer Library.

February 3

Symbols in the Church – The Right Reverend



Bishop Spence

Ralph Spence, Bishop of Niagara in the Anglican Church of Canada, will bring his knowledge of heraldry and flags to Grace. He also will preach at the Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan at 11:00 a.m.

Episcopal Church 101 – The second session of this class, led by Dr. Lester Pittman in the Meadowcroft Room.

Adult Bible Study meets in the Dotterer Library.

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