

# Grace to You

August 2009

## Upcoming Events

### August

- 2 Discussion of General Convention 8:30 a.m.
- 10 Tenting and Fumigation of the Church Begins
- 12 NO NOON SERVICE
- 14 Church Tenting Ends
- 18 FPU Graduation 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Vestry Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Continental Breakfast and Blessing of the Schools  
Interfaith Sunday
- 27 DOK Noon  
Noon Healing Service  
Wednesdays - 5, 19, 26
- Grace Group AA Meeting  
Saturdays - 7:30 p.m.
- Overcomers  
Mondays - 7:30 p.m.
- Soaking Prayer  
Thursdays - 8:00 a.m.

## From Father Jonathan

Grace Family,

Just a few weeks ago, the Episcopal Church meet for their triennial convention, called General Convention, in Anaheim California. There were many important resolutions, but perhaps none more than the two that dealt with the ordination of gay and lesbian people and the authorization of same sex marriages, respectively. Hardly a day went by during General Convention that the news wasn't reporting how the Episcopal Church had done what has never been done before. And, unfortunately, it is all true.

Never before in the history of the church have we gone so far against Holy Scripture and church tradition. Even as the rest of the world's Anglicans, including the Archbishop of Canterbury himself, called for the Episcopal Church to show restraint by not pressing forward on these issues, the deputies choose to do as they saw fit. Now to be clear, the deputies from Central Florida and Bishop Howe stood fast for traditional orthodox Christianity, however, they were vastly outnumbered and therefore lost every vote.

That, as you might imagine, is the bad news. However, there is good news. Finally there is clarity about the direction the Episcopal Church is planning on going. Without question, the Episcopal Church has chosen a clear and definite direction. And I can say unequivocally, that is not a direction Grace Church or the Diocese of Central Florida is going. We already have diocesan canons (laws) prohibiting clergy in the diocese from performing or even attending same sex blessings. Our discernment process for incoming priests and deacons is restricted to only those who are willing to conform to the Biblical norm of heterosexuality within marriage and celibacy outside of marriage. So, for all intents and purposes, things within the Diocese of Central Florida will remain the same.

As of today, I am unsure what will happen next. There are many, many people with opinions, but they are speculative at best. But this I do know, **Jesus will continue to reign at Grace Church.** The Word will continue to be preached and taught and we will continue to adhere to the traditional foundational truths handed down over the past 2000 years. It is a confusing time, but I am confident that God knows what's going on and has a plan for us as we continue to follow him.

Please be in prayer for your vestry, Rector and church. Now, more than ever, we need to be attentive to the Shepherd's voice.

In Him I remain yours,

Fr. Jonathan+



September 6 begins

"Bring Your Bible  
Sundays"

Check out [graceocala.org](http://graceocala.org)  
Our newsletter is now on line.

## The Order of the Daughters of the King

Dear Ones at Grace Episcopal,

Greetings on a very hot summer day. I hope you all are taking advantage of pools and cool drinks and various summer delights, most of all I hope you have had a chance to slow down and enjoy your families, both yours and the Grace family.

These past months have been filled with ups and downs for many of us and therefore in my particular case I have been on my knees a lot. Actually I can attest to the truth that most praying comes while running, driving, shopping, sitting, watching really bad TV....pretty much most of the time when the human being is in crisis mode. And I wonder if some of you, as I do, sometimes run out of words and just put your hand in God's hand and keep walking forward. I cannot tell you how glad I am that I am a Daughter of the King at times like that because I know that my dear sisters in Christ are faithfully petitioning God for my loved one because I have asked them to. So often folks keep a stiff upper lip and hold their problems close to their heart, never sharing their need for help in asking God for help. It's a guy thing and a girl thing, each toughing it out independently thinking that asking for help is whining or somehow a dishonorable thing to do. As a member of Grace, and a Daughter of the King I have learned that intercessory prayer is a wonderful tool that is available to each of us both here in our church family and in the world. Prayer warriors are all around us and provide warmth and healing. That's a fact! It is as if your problem is lifted up by many hands and hearts and is immeasurably lighter.

I read something I'd like to share from the "Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Newsletter" that is pertinent to this. "Although adoration and thanksgiving are the highest forms of prayer, most of us find a larger part of our prayer time spent in "asking" prayers, intercession and petition. Not only is intercession asking God to handle the difficulties of another but, more importantly, it is the placing of ourselves within God's will to be a channel through which He can accomplish His purpose in the other person. It is the offering of our imperfect love as the vehicle through which God can work His perfect love.

We must never hesitate to pray for concrete needs, as we see them... In time we may find that the actual need is different from what we originally thought it to be but, if so, we are given spiritual insight and guidance in how to continue praying for that person or situation.

In cases where we are uncertain of what we should pray for another, we should simply ask God to keep the person constantly aware of His loving presence, which is the greatest blessing one can receive."

I thought those were good words to think about!  
May you all enjoy the rest of your summer and have energy aplenty for the fast approaching fall and its challenges.

Much love....and For His Sake,  
Patti Gilman

### BLESSINGS OF THE SCHOOLS

On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> we are inviting the friends, families, and staff of Ambleside School and Eden of Ocala to join us for a continental breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30 am, to be followed by a blessing of both schools at 9:30am, and then our worship service at 9:45am. We hope our whole congregation joins in welcoming these two schools to our campus. Eden of Ocala, for children with autism, will be using the Lively House and Ambleside, offering a Christ-centered education for grades K - 6, will be using the main school building. It will truly be a blessing to hear the voices of God's children in both prayer and laughter once again on our campus. Please mark your calendar so that we can all share in this wonderful day.

### BIG HEARTED COOKS NEEDED

On the third Thursday of every second month members of Grace provide supper for those staying at the Interfaith Emergency Shelter. Last week we only had to cook for four; in the winter months the number can grow to fourteen. Those receiving our meal are mostly women and children and sometimes a father may be with them. The dinner consists of a main course such as pasta, casserole, meat loaf, etc., a salad or vegetable, rolls, dessert, and drinks. When there is a larger group we stay and serve it and are always welcome to join in and eat with them. If you know of someone who would like to do this with you it cuts the work in half. Many of those who have done this in the past have done it with a friend or neighbor or as a family.

We need volunteers for the following dates this fall through next spring: September 17, November 19, January 21, March 18, and May 20.

If this is something that you might like to be a part of and would like some more information please email me or give me a call.

Many Thanks,

Lise Kent

[cantiuminc@aol.com](mailto:cantiuminc@aol.com)

352-362-6037

Greetings to all:

As many of you know Charlie and I have been traveling for the last couple of months. We had actually planned to stay in CT until late September. However, our plans have changed and we arrived back in Florida this past week.

Please note that our phone number is changed to: 352-509-4628.

Thanks for all of your prayers and best wishes for a safe trip.

Libby and Charlie Robinson

### ECW Reminder

We are not meeting thru the summer months and our next meeting will be held September 10th in the Parish Hall starting at noon with a covered dish luncheon. MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us with your favorite dish.

Thanks, Jackie

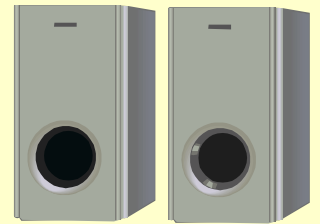
Please note the email address for Grace has changed. The new general email address is: [info@graceocala.org](mailto:info@graceocala.org)

Please delete from your records the old aol address. Thank you!

**"You hear something?"  
"What is that crackling?"  
"I think it's the speakers!"**

Can you help us please?

The church is in need of speakers for two of our office computers. Would you happen to have a set not being used that you would be willing to donate to the office volunteers? We would certainly appreciate them, and ask Martha for the tax deduction letter for your records. Thanks!



Beloved in Christ,

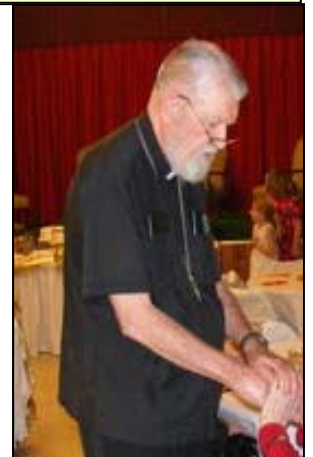
Greetings in the Name of the Lord. We have decided to make a couple of changes in the work that I try to do around Grace Church. We decided that it would be better to have the few people who have been attending my Sunday School Class over in the Great Hall give up our class and support the attendance at Father Jonathan's class in the Parish House. It will also give me time to enjoy his teaching while I work on my needlepoint in the back row.

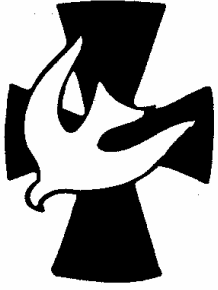
The other change we are planning to make is the formation of a prayer group that will meet as the Order of Saint Luke. Some of the people have talked to me about the idea and it seems good to me to have a parish prayer group that meets on a scheduled basis to pray for the Parish and for the Episcopal Church as well as for the people in the parish who are in need of prayer.

There are some situations that respond better to individual prayer that is prayed in privacy rather than a large group. I would like to offer to meet with anyone who wants personal prayer for Healing, Inner Healing, or Deliverance. That is what I do at All Saints, Winter Park when I go down there on Tuesdays. I have some open time when we could meet at the Church Office. If you are interested call and we will get together. You may call the Church Office or call me at home at 694-4895. I am not in town on Tuesdays, but I have an answering machine that will take a message.

God's love and mine,

**Father Al**





# Grace to You

Grace Episcopal Church

510 SE Broadway St Suite 100

Ocala FL 34471

352/622-7881 or Fax 352/622-7882

[graceocala.org](http://graceocala.org)

[info@graceocala.org](mailto:info@graceocala.org)

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Thank you!



## Regular Worship Times

### Sunday

7:30 a.m. Rite 1

8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Rite 2

Adult Sunday School in Parish Hall. Nursery is available for all children under five years old during the 9:45 am service and Sunday School.

### Wednesday

12:00 noon - Healing Service (No service August 12th)

### Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday - Closed

Office phone number: 622-7881

## Staff

The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Hugo Pina Lopez, Asst. Bishop

The Rev. Jonathan French, Rector

The Rev. Al Durrance, Rector Emeritus

Danny Smith - Sexton

Martha Slemmer - Office Manager

Bob Cabbage - Organist

## Vestry

Diane Parks - Senior Warden

Robert Estes - Junior Warden

Jeff Kirk - Treasurer

Ruth Ray

Joan Stark

Jimmy Collins

Richard Williamson

Lori Craig

Don Hires

Alan Garri

Greg Harrell

Michael Miller