

**GRACE CHURCH**  
**Living and Growing in Grace Fully**  
**ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTIONS**

(March 2010)

**Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board meets five times a year to receive reports from the incumbent and the wardens on the activities of the church. They comment on the reports, provide input on policy matters and approve the annual financial statements and budget. Members, who are elected by the Vestry, are expected to actively support the activities of the parish. If you are interested in becoming a member see Father John or one of the Wardens.

Contact: Father John or the church office, 905-294-3184

**Affordable Housing**

Affordable housing is an Outreach Ministry that supports the goal of ensuring that everyone in the community is suitably housed. Those in need are typically individuals and households who have low incomes, are senior citizens, are living with mental illness or are victims of domestic abuse. The Committee works with community groups and Government organizations to provide housing that meets the requirements of those in need. This housing will cost less than 30% of the before tax household income, will not require major repair, and will have enough bedrooms for the size and makeup of the household.

Contact: Gerry Meade, 905-642-6752

**Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is a worship-focused group who faithfully look after preparing the Altar area for each liturgy. They prepare the Altar in the appointed colour of the day; prepare the Communion vessels for each worship, regardless of the day of the week; and look after the flowers. Volunteers who serve in this Guild are appointed by the Incumbent. There is one annual meeting and members are part of the roster throughout the year. The Altar Guild director is Jocelyn Tunnard.

Contact: Jocelyn Tunnard, 905-231-0242

**Anglican Church Women**

As the name implies, all the women of the church are automatically members of the ACW. It is an opportunity to affirm their many gifts through worship, learning and service. Many of the activities in the church and in our outreach to the community are as a result of the efforts of the ACW. You are invited to visit our website at [www.graceanglican.ca](http://www.graceanglican.ca) to learn more about this group. The president is Dorothy McKelvey.

Contact: Dorothy McKelvey, 905-294-1935

**Bazaar**

Annually, approaching the Christmas Season, Grace Church ACW organizes and sponsors a bazaar of craft and other gift opportunities. Contributors and helping hands are always welcome.

Contact: Dorothy McKelvey, 905-294-1935

**Bell Tower Sign Maintenance**

The purpose of this activity is to change the signs that are in the two glass cabinets on the bell tower. This is done by removing the signs from the cabinets and changing the lettering according to the Minister's message. There are 2 people involved in this activity who meet once a week on Tuesday mornings to carry out this activity. In addition to the glass cabinets (which are lit up at night), the bell tower has the original bell from the old church which is rung automatically every Sunday.

Contact: George Beckingham, 905-294-0708

### **Book Club**

A Book Club was started in the fall at Grace Anglican. It is an interest group; a group of people who are interested in reading and discussing books. We meet in each others homes on the first Monday evening of the month from 8-9:30ish. Our choices have been eclectic so far: novels set in a Depression era circus; the story of the last Beothuk native in Newfoundland; a novel by Jane Urquhart, set in Ireland and Canada, among others. The purpose of the group is the shared experience of reading that enlarges our worlds. We are open to reading fiction, non-fiction and creative non-fiction. Book choices are reached by discussion and consensus. The Book Club has another purpose within the context of our life at Grace. An interest group can be something we invite non-church friends to as an introduction to our community at Grace.

Contact: Janet Read, [jread@bellnet.ca](mailto:jread@bellnet.ca)

### **Catering**

Through the ACW, several women help to prepare and cater meals, in the church kitchen, or with the help of volunteers at home. Meals are prepared several times a year for the Markham Lions Club meetings, and also for the very large annual Alcoholics Anonymous Annual Christmas Banquet. A reliable core group of women, along with many volunteers, who are telephoned by a calling committee, are asked to contribute food, such as appetizers, desserts and sandwiches, for receptions for weddings, anniversaries, funerals and other parish/community occasions. In addition to contributing food, volunteers are always needed to be waitresses at some events, and to help with the set up and clean up duties. There are no regularly scheduled meetings, since the core group along with any willing volunteers, combine their talents whenever they are needed.

Contact: Phyllis Tyrie, 905-294-4560

### **Cemetery Board**

The Grace Church Cemetery is located at the west end of Princess Street, which runs west from Markham Road at the stop light at the top of the hill about a kilometer south of Highway 7. The cemetery is operated by a Board that is elected at the annual meeting of Vestry. If you are interested in being involved, see Dr. Jack White.

Contact: Dr. Jack White, 905-294-2436

### **Children's Christmas Pageant**

The Christmas Pageant allows the church school children a deeper appreciation of the Nativity Story. A director is chosen from the adult volunteers of Church School and children are assigned roles. Volunteers meet in September to choose a play. Wardrobe, props, casting and other duties are also assigned. Ad hoc meetings are held as the pageant date draws nearer. Usually there are three to four practices before the performance date. Assistance is always needed in sewing costumes. It is best to sew costumes in late October/early November. Help is also needed to prepare pre-rehearsal lunches and clean up afterwards.

Contact: Catherine Toyonaga, Coordinator (as well as the assigned play director) 905-472-0435 [cathy.toyonaga@rogers.com](mailto:cathy.toyonaga@rogers.com)

### **Choir**

Grace Church Choir plays an integral role in enhancing the joy of the 10 AM Sunday worship. Being part of the Choir provides an opportunity for people of all ages to gain insight into church music and join with others in adding to meaning of our weekly worship as well as other special occasions. The choir gathers for practice sessions in the Lounge on Thursday evenings (7:00-8:15PM) and Sunday mornings (9:30-9:55AM). Our Music Director is Patrick Dewell.

Contact: Patrick Dewell, [tie\\_guy49@hotmail.com](mailto:tie_guy49@hotmail.com) or the church office, 905-294-3184

## **Churchwardens**

From a business perspective, the parish operates as an incorporated entity known as The Parish of Grace Church Markham. The officers of the parish are the Incumbent, and the two Churchwardens. The Churchwardens are assisted by three Deputy Churchwardens. As a group they look after the "business" of the parish and the required administration. One Churchwarden is elected by Vestry and the other appointed by the incumbent.

Churchwardens: Mike Clare, 905-471-1459  
Cindy Knowles, 905-294-8240  
Deputy Churchwardens: Kerrie Duncan, 905-472-0103  
Lisa Miller, 905-479-8324  
Carolyn Stephenson  
Bill Jennings, 905-471-3285

## **Coffee After Services**

This group is responsible for preparing coffee and beverages after the 10 a.m. service. Providing coffee encourages conversation and provides an opportunity to greet new and existing congregation members. The commitment for this group involves putting the coffee on at least a half hour before the end of the service, putting the cups and condiments on the table in the lobby and subsequently cleaning up.

Contacts: Louie Dart, 905-294-1255 or Steve Pitman, 905-472-6377

## **Communications Committee**

The focus of this committee is to welcome newcomers and to facilitate communications between all members of the Parish family. Members of the committee deliver "welcome" bags, which include information about Grace and a CD, to new members. The committee also coordinates special events and undertakes various projects throughout the year. Some of these have included coordinating and/or assisting with events like Parish Breakfasts held in the fall and winter, a parish Dinner/Dance held in the spring which is also a major fundraiser for the church, Markham Festival, summertime Pew & Q's, special advertising projects, a Parish Photo Directory, etc. We meet once a month (no meetings in the summer). We welcome new members!

Contact: Carol Saunders Mohammed, 905-471-1294 or carolmoe@fcibroadband.com

## **E-Newsletter**

Each month and on special occasions Grace Church publishes an electronic newsletter that is sent by email to the subscribers. While this newsletter is prepared and distributed by the church secretary, relevant contributions are welcome from all parishioners. Just be sure you submit your article well before the deadline for the next issue. Copies are also placed in the lobby for people who are not able to receive a copy online.

Contact: the church office at 905-294-3184, ext. 5

## **Envelope Secretary**

This person is responsible for recording the weekly givings, preparing interim statements and tax receipts, as well as, reporting envelope givings to the vestry.

Envelope Secretary: Jean Carpenter, 905-294-4139

## **Evening at Grace**

On the last Tuesday of each month, except during the summer, we organize an evening around a topic that might be of interest to our parishioners. On about half of the evenings we have "Faith and Film 101" with the showing of a contemporary film followed by a discussion on the role of faith within the movie. On the other evenings we have a presentation and discussion on a selected topic. These topics have ranged from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the history of our Anglican traditions to financial awareness. Please let us know if there is a topic of interest to you. All parishioners are welcome to join us at any presentation.

Contact: David Ashley at 905-940-0614 and Don Shields at 905-948-8961

### **Facilities Committee**

The Facilities Committee is responsible for supervising the maintenance and upkeep of the physical plant both in the church itself and the rectory. Mike Clare is the warden in charge and is assisted by the sexton and a group of volunteers who are willing to offer expert advice and, at times, are prepared to get their hands dirty. This is an on going ministry of what is basically known as property management. The committee meets on an as needs basis, usually on a Friday morning in the church meeting room. Anytime that someone is available they are always welcome.

Contact: Ken Drynan, 905- 294-4088 and Mike Clare, 905-471-1459

### **Faithworks Appeal**

Faith works is a Stewardship Ministry that supports the Parochial and Diocesan visions of embodying through action God's reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation. Funds are raised to support those in need or at risk in the Parish, the community, the Diocese, the country and around the world. The aims are achieved through partnerships with agencies involved in the delivery of social, health or community services at Parochial, Diocesan, national and global levels. The fund raising activities of Faith Works are concentrated in May each year, and support to partner agencies is provided year round. The Faith Works Committee meets as necessary to plan, launch, coordinate, and report on each year's faith Works campaign.

Contact: Bruce Grubbe

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee at Grace Church is a group made of Rector, Wardens and Deputy Wardens, Treasurer and parishioners involved in the financial area of the parish. The Committee meets at least once per month to review the financial statements of the previous month and any future expenses coming up that effect the financial picture of the parish. The Committee's main responsibilities are to:

- a) Monitor the monthly results making sure that the finances are reported accurately.
- b) Review as to what should be proposed to the Rector and Wardens on possible approaches of keeping the parish informed on financial results of the parish
- c) Make recommendations to Rector and Wardens on finances reported as well as financial impact coming up.
- d) Assist in the preparation of reports that are presented to Advisory Committee and year-end Vestry.
- e) Assist in the preparation of and approval of the yearly annual budget.

Contact: Dave Kelso, 905-294-2891

### **Forward Day by Day**

A publication of daily Bible readings and meditations by different authors issued quarterly. There are over 30 people at Grace Anglican Church who receive copies of the Day By Day publication. It is published and distributed quarterly by Forward Publications, Cincinnati, Ohio an agency of the Episcopal Church. Forward Day by Day supports persons in their lives of prayer and faith, day by day, month by month, and year by year. Each month of meditations is written by a different anonymous contributor, whose work has been recommended, reviewed and edited. The current subscription cost for one year is \$8.00 and for two years \$16.00. Individual copies cost \$2.00. A report on the year's activities and an audited financial statement is reported at the Annual Vestry Meeting. If you are interested in a subscription to Forward Day By Day, please contact Bill or Barbara Angell who handle the funds, ordering and distribution.

Contact: Bill or Barbara Angell, 905-477-3685

### **Friendship Secretary**

Our Friendship Secretary, Ruth Boulton, sends out cards to members of our church community and their loved ones, for many occasions, when she is aware of a particular event or milestone. Any member of our church can inform the Friendship Secretary, or our Office Secretary, if you would like to have a card sent from our church to acknowledge an event. Volunteers are needed to keep the Secretary informed of these important events or milestones, even though our Church Office has information about some of them.  
Contact: Ruth Boulton, 905-471-4759

### **Gardening Group**

The Gardening Group is composed of the Green Thumbs of Grace with an offshoot called The Groundskeepers. The main focus of this group is to maintain and improve the beauty of the grounds surrounding the Church. This makes the Church more attractive and inviting not only to our parishioners, but also to the churches neighbours and potential future parishioners. The Green Thumbs has 8 adult members and a few youngsters who help out. The Groundskeepers consist of four men. We provide fellowship by planning and planting as a group. Weeding, and watering of new and existing gardens is carried out a couple of times a week by the members individually or in groups of two. The Groundskeepers cut and maintain the lawns around the church. The Green Thumbs meet in the lounge approximately four times a year. We also get together a few times a year in the gardens of the Church. Donations of plants are needed sometime in May or June. New recruits are always wanted, but their help is most needed in the summer months. We invite both experienced and novice gardeners to join us.

Contacts: Bill Jennings for the gardening group, 905-471-3285 and George Beckingham for the groundskeepers, 905-294-0708.

### **Health Cabinet**

The Health Cabinet is a faith ministry that emphasizes the wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in the vision of Christ as a healer, this ministry grows out of the belief that all faith communities are places of health and healing. They work with the clergy and Parish Nurse identifying the needs of the congregation and implementing programs that meet these needs such as presentations and discussions on topics like nutrition, mental health, stress and prescription drugs. They meet about 5 times a year, usually after church on Sunday, to plan and implement their program. For more information please talk to Jean Hoover, our Parish Nurse.

Contacts: Linell Curr 905-294-5755, Marian Kenny 905-294-6927, and Jean Hoover, through the church office

### **Knitting Guild**

The Knitting Guild meets every other Friday afternoon in the lounge from 1-3pm. We bring our current charity knitting project which might be something for the bazaar knitting table, for Moorelands baby bundles, for Mission to Seafarers, etc, and enjoy tea and chatter as we knit. Yarn for knitting, patterns and knitting needles are available along with encouragement for those who might want to learn to knit.

Contact: Cindy Knowles, 905-294-8240.

### **Ladies of Grace (Widows Group)**

This is a support and social group for widows led by Jean Lee and Ann Murphy. They meet in the lounge for lunches, often with a speaker, and go on short excursions to places of mutual interest.

Contacts: Jean Lee, 905-294-2544 and Ann Murphy, 905-294-7980

### **Lay Communion Visitors**

This trained group of volunteers visits the elderly and shut-ins in their homes. On request, they can also deliver communion. If you are interested in joining or a visit, please contact Father John or Elizabeth McEwan.

Contacts: Father John, 905-294-3184 and Elizabeth McEwan 905-471-8661

### **Lay Chalice Bearers**

This group of people is responsible for assisting in administering the wine during the both morning services. The commitment on average requires serving once every four to six weeks and training is provided by one of the committee members.

Contact: Jean Carpenter, 905-294-4139

### **Lay Readers**

This group of people is responsible for administering the bread and wine, the prayers of the people, [crucifer](#) (carrying the cross) and reading the gospel for both morning services. These members are recommended by the minister and are licensed by the Bishop. The commitment on average requires serving once every four to six weeks and training is provided by [Jean Carpenter](#)

Contact: Jean Carpenter, 905-294-4139

### **Lay Delegates to Synod**

The Lay Delegates are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting in January. They attend the biennial meetings of the Diocese of Toronto, called Synods, and any special Diocesan Synods called during the year to discuss diocesan business and finance. Lay delegates attend the parish Advisory Board Meetings to update the parish on the events and issues of the wider church. The number of Lay Delegates is based on the annual average weekly attendance in the parish. At the present time Grace Church has three delegates. Lay Delegates serve a maximum term of three biennial Synods.

Lay Delegates: Wanda Mara, 905-294-0048, David Taylor, 905-294-7104 and Dianne Abbott, 905-294-3277

### **Living and Growing GraceFully**

A small group of members of this parish meet on a regular basis to brain storm ways to encourage involvement and participation in the life of the life of Grace. They have taken a broad definition of stewardship to include the involvement in each of the three "T"s (Time, Talent and Treasure). Their deliberations have resulted in the many innovations at Grace including the T-Plan, Recognition Sunday, an Evening at Grace, the E-news and Wii event for families!

Contact: Canon John through the church office, 905-294-3184, ext. 1

### **Lunch with Grace**

Grace Church opens its doors to the community on the third Tuesday of each month for a hot lunch program where around 100 people gather for good nutritious food, conversation and companionship. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in assisting please see Jean Lee.

Contact: Jean Lee, 905-294-2544

### **Markham Food Bank**

While the food bank now operates as an independent facility, this food supply program for those in need was started by parishioners of Grace Church, and many Grace Church people continue to be involved. A collection box is available in the south entrance to the building.

Contact: Jocelyn Tunnard, 905-231-0242

### **Markham Music Festival**

Grace Church is a participant in the annual Village of Markham Music Festival on a June weekend where the whole of downtown Markham Main Street is closed and Morgan Park becomes the scene of carnival entertainment. Grace Church sponsors children's rides in the park. Helping hands are always needed.

Contact: David Shearer, 905-554-0153

### **Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee has responsibility to nominate members of the congregation to fill the positions that are subject to election by Vestry.

Contact: Father John, 905-294-3184

### **Nursery School**

The Grace Church Nursery School has been operating continuously since 1963 and has enjoyed a long and healthy relationship with the community of Markham. They are a not for profit organization governed by a Board of Directors and sponsored by Grace Church. They are licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services of Ontario under the Day Nurseries Act and the professional staff are all ECE qualified and registered. Their mission is to provide the highest quality program for pre-school aged children in the Markham area.

Contact: Daniela Montgomery at the church, 905-294-3184, ext. 3

### **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee is a core group of approximately 8 people, under the leadership of Jean Lee. Other volunteers help out on an "as needs" basis, with the many different activities that are undertaken by this group. This committee finds out what needs exist locally and abroad, and then finds ways to fill these needs --- through their own efforts, or through the involvement of other groups in our church.

Some of the outreach work that is done by this group includes:

- Assisting the families (mainly the children), and the Anglican church, in a native community in Collins, Northern Ontario
- Supporting a foster child in India
- Donating to the Markham Food Bank
- Contributing to Habitat for Humanity, and it's Restore
- Organizing the collection of Santa Sacks, to send to a downtown organization for distribution to children in need
- Running the monthly "Lunch with Grace" program (on the third Tuesday), which is open to all, whether or not one can afford to pay for the lunch.

In order to pay for this outreach work, the Outreach Committee mainly uses the following fundraising activities:

- Coffee, of excellent quality, is sold at Grace Church all year
- Easter eggs and other types of chocolate products, are sold once a year
- Card parties (which include a lunch) are held 4 times each year, and there is a nominal admission charge
- Running a table at the Christmas Bazaar

The main members of the Outreach Committee have meetings at the church, approximately 3 times a year. Most of the ongoing communication is done by phone. Volunteers are always welcome, especially to help with the set up, serving, and clean up for the monthly "Lunch with Grace".

Contact: Jean Lee, 905-294-2544

### **Outreach Card Party**

Four times a year we open our doors for fellowship over lunch and cards (bridge, euchre, scrabble and other games). A nominal amount is charged as a fund raiser for the Outreach Committee's work. If you can help please contact Jean Lee or the Outreach Committee.  
Contact: Jean Lee, 905-294-2544

### **Parish Breakfast**

This event, coordinated by the Communications Committee, is held twice a year – once in the Fall and again in the Spring. The events continue to grow and are a great opportunity for the entire parish to have a meal together.  
Contact: Carol Saunders Mohammed, 905-471-1294

### **Parish Dinner/Dance**

This is another event coordinated by the Communications Committee that is usually held in the Spring. For the past couple of years the theme has been a "Caribbean" one. This event is a major fundraiser for the church. We are looking for new members to join this fun and exciting group.  
Contact: Carol Saunders Mohammed, 905-471-1294

### **Parish Life Committee**

The Parish Life Committee works to foster a radical welcome to all who attend Grace by providing refreshments and cake periodically following the Sunday worship. The committee also co-ordinates fellowship opportunities as we break bread together at picnics and on special occasions.  
Contact: Ann Murphy, 905-294-7980

### **Parish Nurse**

The Grace Church parish nurse is a dedicated medical professional who acts as a resource to parishioners in need of medical advice, with a special focus is on the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Because of the professional training required to fill this position, the parish nurse is appointed.  
Parish Nurse: Jean Hoover, through the church office

### **Parish Picnic**

Each year we have a parish picnic to mark the last day of Sunday school before the summer break. All are welcome. The picnic is organized and staffed by the Advisory Board but they would welcome additional hands.  
Contact: Ann Murphy, 905-294-7980

### **Power Point Team**

The Power Point team is a group of individuals who operate the Power Point visual presentations for the 9:15 and 10:15 services on a rotational basis that requires that they be on duty approximately one Sunday in seven. The presentation is already on the computer but the operator must set up the computer, turn on the projection equipment and run the presentation. At the end of the service they turn everything off and return the computer to the office.  
Contact: Mike Clare, 905-471-1459 and Cindy Knowles, 905-294-8240

### **Prayer Chain**

Several volunteers, led by Ruth Boulton and Olive Greenhow, carry out this special spiritual activity. Prayers are said for anyone who is in need, or giving special thanks --- usually for those who are ill, grieving, or have passed away, but are also for giving thanks for healing or other blessings, or those facing a particular challenge in life. These prayers may be done either privately through the special chain of volunteers, or publicly during the "Prayers for the People" in church. At the moment, there are 17 church members in the Prayer Chain, but new members are always welcome. This group communicates by phone, where each member contacts the next one along the chain, and shares the name(s) of anyone who needs prayers to be said on his/her behalf. Requests for prayers may be given to our Office Secretary, or directly to Ruth Boulton or Olive Greenhow. Prayers are said for a period of two weeks, and the request may be renewed as often as needed.

Contacts: Ruth Boulton, 905-471-4759 and Olive Greenhow, 905-294-1404

### **Readers Guild**

The Readers' Guild is comprised of individuals who read the lessons on a scheduled, rotational basis at Sunday morning services. Opportunity is also provided for those individuals who prefer not to be part of a regularly scheduled team, but rather have the desire to present readings at specific services on an occasional basis only. In order to allow readers time to practice and become familiar with the passage to be read, the readings are made available by the Church Office, one week in advance, by e-mail or in hard copy. New members are always welcome and are free to choose the service in which they would like to participate. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Readers' Guild, please contact Valerie Chatland.

Contact: Valerie Chatland, 905-294-0960 or at [supplyteach@rogers.com](mailto:supplyteach@rogers.com)

### **Rummage Sale**

Every April and October (watch for dates) the ACW sponsors, organizes and administers a rummage sale which provides an opportunity for one person's excess and no longer in use "stuff" to become another person's treasures. Helping hands are always needed before during and after the sale. The whole parish is encouraged to go through their houses to find treasures that could be donated to the rummage sale.

Rummage Committee: Ann Murphy, 905-294-7980; Shirley Shipley, 905-294-0079;

Gertrude Taylor, 905-294-3627; Jocelyne Tunnard, 905-231-0242; Phyllis Tyrie, 905-294-4560

### **Screening**

This appointed group is responsible for implementing the Diocesan **Responsible Ministry: Screening in Faith Policy**. All parish volunteers are selected, trained and supported to continue the safe and caring community at Grace Church. If you are interested in this group, speak to Ginny Bidwell.

Contact: Ginny Bidwell, 905-294-2192

### **Servers Guild**

The Server Guild is a youth based group, of mostly teens, who take turns assisting in the Sunday worship. They carry the processional torches and assist the Officiant in preparing and clearing the Altar as we celebrate Jesus' presence with us in Communion. Volunteers are coordinated by the Incumbent. There are periodic training sessions and there is a Server outing to a special event such as a Raptors' or Jays' game each year.

Contact: Father John or the church office, 905-294-3184

### **Sidespersons (Greeters/Ushers)**

Sidespeople play an important role at the 8:15, 9:15 and 10:15 a.m. services. They greet arriving worshippers, assist them in finding a seat if necessary and hand out the service leaflet and other paperwork. They are responsible for collecting, bringing forward and counting the offertory. In addition, they manage the flow of parishioners during the Eucharist and tidy the pews at the end of the service. Sidespersons find their tasks rewarding for a number of reasons. In a variety of small ways sidespeople help make each service flow smoothly. They are able to get to know many of the congregation they might not otherwise meet and through this contact they come away with a sense of active participation in the service. Grace Church Sidespeople would like to have you on the team! For information on becoming a sidesperson, contact Rick Montgomery.

Contact: Rick Montgomery, 905-294-5173

### **Spring Clean-up**

Each spring on a Saturday morning in May a work party of volunteers gathers at the church, under the direction of the facilities warden, to clean up and beautify the grounds and tend to the gardens and shrubbery. At the same time we spring clean the inside of the church and make minor repairs that are needed. This is an occasion for the old saying "The more the merrier". You are even encouraged to bring your own tools.

Contact: Mike Clare, 905-471-1459

### **Study Groups**

Adult Christian Education Study Groups are a means to discover and deepen both faith and community, and are a vital part of our parish life together. We strive to provide a variety of Study Groups at convenient times, both during the day and on evenings. Our group encounters with scripture may include video or film media, approaches by topic, book of the Bible, or theme. These gatherings provide an opportunity to meet people, learn of our relationship with God, and share stories of our experiences. Individual study is also encouraged through the 'Eating the Scroll' series, and adapts well to our busy schedules, while keeping us on a lifelong learning track. Grace is committed to fostering small groups as a means of building and rejuvenating Christian Community. All are welcome to join each study group as it is being formed. Contact Rev. Don Shields or Rev. Janet Stephens through the Church Office, 905-294-3184.

### **Sunday School Teachers**

Sunday school provides Christian fellowship and education to children of all ages. Staff is currently made up of 15 adult volunteers and 9 student volunteers. Teachers use various curriculum to meet the needs of church school children. Meetings are usually held once at the beginning of the school year and then ad hoc during the year. Teachers are assigned duty approximately once per month, depending on the number of teachers in their rotation. Volunteers are welcomed to join at any time. Additional help is appreciated during the late spring (when team members start going to their cottages) and during the winter months (when the flu viruses take their toll).

Contact: Catherine Toyonaga, Coordinator, 905-472-0435 [cathy.toyonaga@rogers.com](mailto:cathy.toyonaga@rogers.com)

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer is responsible for [disbursing funds](#), keeping the financial books of the parish, [monthly reporting to the wardens](#), [attending Finance Committee and Advisory Board meetings](#), and ensuring we are in compliance with all legal, [government](#) and diocesan requirements. This position is appointed by the wardens.

Treasurer: Phyllis Doherty, 905-762-0125

### **Winchesters**

These dedicated women meet every Thursday morning in the upper hall, following the church service, to enjoy quilting and conversation. Their quilts are donated to charities. All are welcome.

Contact: Marilyn Tunncliff, 905-294-4524

**Website      [www.graceanglican.ca](http://www.graceanglican.ca)**

The Parish website is a part of the Communications Ministry. The Website is our window to the world. It allows everyone with internet access to visit us whenever they want to. It is a source of information for parishioners, and anyone who wants to learn more about Grace Church. The website contains useful, current and accurate information including: who we are, what we offer, and who and how to contact us. The website is maintained by the Parish Webmaster based on information provided, and kept current, by the Rector, Churchwardens and Committees.

**Welcome Back BBQ**

Each Fall we start of the new Sunday School year with a BBQ for all parishioners. The event is organized by the wardens but they always welcome volunteers to help.

Contact: Any Churchwarden

**Youth Choir**

The Junior Choir is a worship focused youth group who perform special music once or twice a month during Sunday worship. They sing lively music from different traditions. *A Gaelic Blessing*, a *Shona African Gloria*, a *Jazz God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* and works from spirituals and contemporary Christian music to John Rutter's *All Things Bright and Beautiful* have formed recent repertoire. At the present time the choir practices from 4:15 to 5:15 Monday evenings from Thanksgiving to May. Grades Two and up are welcome. They are under the direction of Janet Read who is a musician and a member of the Ontario College of Teachers.

Contact: Janet Read, 905-294-4818

**Youth Lounge** (formerly called Youth Group)

The Youth Lounge is an effort to help young people to transition from Confirmation to a wider role in the church. In today's society of political correctness Christian teenagers (and adults for that matter) often are not comfortable expressing their beliefs. Our goal with the Youth Lounge is to give Christian youth a place to go and have fun being a teenager; but also where they can express their thoughts and feelings as a Christian with other teenagers, plus learn about growing up and living as an Anglican. Everyone in grades 7 to 12 is welcome.

The goal is to have the Youth Lounge open approximately every third week during the 10:15 service with the youth coming into worship at Communion time. The youth are given the freedom of the Youth Lounge and its equipment (cameras, computer, Wii, Rockband, string guitar, DVDS, pizza) with minimal supervision. There will also be an occasional visit by the clergy.

Help is always welcome. Drivers for field trips, people to get DVD's, set up, take delivery of pizzas etc are all needed. As well we are always looking for more people to join the team that quietly plans and organizes everything behind the scenes.

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