

## Volunteer Awards 2008

Sunday April 6 was a terrific day in the life of Grace as we welcomed our Area Bishop, George Elliott, and celebrated our Volunteers as part of Stewardship Month! Volunteer awards are nothing new to Grace. For a number of years there were Archbishop's Awards and we have two worthy recipients here at Grace in the persons of Louisa Dart and Jean Lee. Then last year when Bishop George was here we celebrated the work of the Altar Guild and I remember well the "ah's" that went up as we celebrated the years of service of people like Jocelyn, Rena, and Muriel amongst others! This is a great thing to do in "Stewardship Month" which also happens to be "Volunteer Appreciation Month" as well. We celebrate the use of our "talents" in the life of Grace!

We have many volunteers here at Grace! We love them all and we like to celebrate them. We named a few outstanding volunteers who received the "Volunteer Appreciation" pin from the bishop. This is not meant to be the complete list but we would like to highlight several people each year. The intention of this project, coming out of our Living and Growing Gracefully group, and approved by the churchwardens, is to do this every year.

I invite you to think of further people to nominate to the churchwardens for next year. There are so many! We are blessed!

**George Beckingham** - George has done a great deal to help set up the new sound system. He is a real audiophile and has even provided much of the new system. This is an extension of his care of this property with cutting the grass and updating the sign every week, not to mention the construction of the parish shed, complete with steeple!

**Jean Carpenter** - Jean is known for many things here at Grace. She is our trusty Envelope Secretary, but much more than that, Jean has a deep and abiding love for our Lord and the celebration of this love through worship! Jean is our head Lay Reader and has started to train our new Servers!

**Bruce English** - Bruce is a key part of our property team and joins in the care of the grounds and updating the sign with George but more than that he has caring relationships with so many folks in the parish. At the moment, I think of his visits to Mabelle.

**Olive Greenhow** - As we celebrate Olive today I think of her involvement in the Winchester's who do quilting here at Grace but much more than that, I think of Olive's commitment to prayer and the parish Prayer Chain. Prayer and generosity are at the core of Olive's being. Last Thursday I overheard Olive say to one person "I pray for you daily!" We celebrate Olive's Prayer ministry.

**Sheri Krauss** - Sheri has been a member of Grace most, if not all, her life. She is a member of the Altar Guild but more significantly Sherri came to me last Fall and said she thought it was time for Grace to expand our Sunday Nursery Program. Bishop Brown had a saying, "If something is worth doing somebody will offer to do it!!" Not only did Sheri bring in a short list of possible curricula for consideration but offered to start up the program! It is another building block in building a "Program Church."

**T Rogers Gardham** - Rogers is well known in the community for his involvement in the Markham Fair and the hospital and the bank but this is his spiritual home. He does those other things because of his faith. Rogers is an essential component of our LGGF Stewardship Group. More importantly, Rogers knows there is a major "paradigm shift" happening in which "change is the only constant." Rogers encourages us to embrace this change!

**Cathy Toyonaga** - Almost four years ago I met a group of parents of the children at Grace to start talking about setting up a new Sunday School. Several were willing to volunteer to teach but we had to have a coordinator to head things up. Cathy was not at the meeting but she was the unanimous choice of everyone. Somehow, I was dispatched to go and meet and then ask Cathy to take on this essential position at Grace. She said "yes" and are we ever glad she did!

**Phyllis Tyrie** - We have talked about worship and we have talked about prayer but we have not talked about food. Phyllis does many things in ACW and Altar, and rummage and and and... Phyllis comes to Thursday and Sunday worship. She also heads up the catering! Food! Meal after meal after meal after reception the smells are fabulous and the taste even better. Phyllis has also very quietly taken on the role of being the cookie lady as she has taken on the role of making sure the children's choir has cookies and treats each week. Food glorious food!