

## Grace Episcopal Church Self-Guided Tour

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church. You are invited to linger and enjoy this sacred space. You may wish to take some time to sit, pray or meditate and experience the quiet of this beautiful sanctuary and you may avow yourself the opportunity to take a self-guided tour with the aid of this booklet. While you enjoy your time with us remember the scripture, "be still and know that I am God."

### Brief History of Grace Parish

Grace Episcopal Church was incorporated as Grace Episcopal Church of Elkridge Landing beginning in 1841 when Reverend Robert Piggot began preaching to small congregations on Sunday afternoons in various local homes. In 1845 Grace Episcopal Church was admitted to full status by the Convention of the Diocese of Maryland that met on May 29, 1845. This is the third oldest Episcopal congregation in Howard County.

Between 1855 and 1909 Grace Church had three fires. The church buildings that burned were of construction frame and located near the B&O railroad tracks. After the third fire the vestry decided to build the new church a safer distance away from the tracks. Minutes of vestry meetings indicate that the third building was to be constructed of poured concrete, however at some point (not indicated in the minutes) a decision was made to construct the building of stone with at slate roof. The present building (1911) was designed by George Worthington.

Grace Church continues to serve the communities of Elkridge, Relay and St. Denis. A parish with a colorful past with families of note, Dobbin, Pue, Dorsey, Worthington, Bruce, Hemphill, Murray, Donaldson paved the way for new people to come to Grace and serve God. Thomas Donaldson, a descendent of one of the founding families was ordained a priest. Berkley Ford, who was raised in Elkridge became a priest. Hannah Smith entered All Saints Convent, Catonsville and Phyllis Crothers entered the Community of the Transfiguration. Fr. Ted Gulick, a former rector is now Bishop of Kentucky. Grace Church continues to live with new families moving forward to a bright future through the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### Windows

Begin your tour taking a close look at the windows. Grace Church has 10 stained glass windows of different periods in the history of the parish and of the church building. Depending upon the time of day and the day of the year each window takes on a unique display of light. The East Window is most impressive during early to mid-morning, whereas the West Window show its bright colors best in mid to late afternoon. The North Window has a particularly beautiful display of blue during mid morning. Seasons also affect the different hues of the windows with Summer affording the brightest colors and Winter with softer diffused colors.

#### Window 1

The East Window located over the Altar is created by Franz Mayer & Company. This creator had studios in New York and Munich. Franz Mayer and Company was founded in 1847 in Munich and in 1863 Franz Xaver Zettler joined the Mayer Company. Upon his arrival in 1865 the stained glass department was established under his supervision. No accurate records exist regarding the original date of this window, however it is original to this building. It was once thought that perhaps this window was originally installed in one of the two previous church buildings, however under close examination of the existing photographs of these two buildings this window would not reflect the architecture of the buildings and in one photograph the East Window in one of the previous buildings is quite vivid and not at all in the shape of a gothic window. This window is a memorial to George Dobbin (1809-1891) and his wife, Rebecca Pue Dobbin (1819-1884) and is an excellent work of art depicting Christ on the Road to Emmaus.

#### Window 2

The window located in the north wall of the Chancel is the Ruth window. This window is given by Charlotte Donaldson Hemphill is a memorial to Frederick B. and Sophie A. Donaldson. Correspondence accompanying this window is dated 1955. This window is created by Willet Hauser, Philadelphia.

#### Window 3

The window located in the south wall of the Chancel is a memorial to Ellen Swan Dobbin Howland (1874-1939). The maker of this window is unknown.

#### Window 4

The North Window located in the North Transept (where the chancel pipe organ is located) is dedicated to the Blessed Mother and the Life of Christ. This window is a memorial to Anna Morris Murray (March 25, 1826-March 6, 1900). The maker of this window is unknown.

#### Window 5

The window located in the wall of the North Transept near the organ console is Christ the Good Shepherd. This window is created by Franz Mayer and Company. This window is a memorial to Rebecca Pue Brown (March 8, 1863-March 29, 1927).

#### Window 6

The window located beside the organ console on the east wall of the North Transept is Dorcas, the Woman of Good Works clothing a child. This window is given by Charlotte Donaldson Hemphill as a memorial to Elizabeth Byrd Williams and her daughter, Elizabeth Byrd Williams. Correspondence accompanying this window is dated 1959. This is a creation of Willet Hauser, Philadelphia.

#### Window 7

The West Window located over the entrance at the rear of the nave is a modern work depicting Mary, Martha, and Jesus. *"Now as they went their way, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.' but the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful, Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.'"*

It is a memorial to Esther Allison Brown (January 1861- September 1950). The maker of this window is unknown.

#### Window 8

The two windows flanking the entrance at the rear of the nave are creations of Willet Hauser, Philadelphia. The window to the left facing the rear of the nave is Christ raising the son of Nain and is a memorial to Howard Ernest Taylor (1934-1968) by his mother Blanche Taylor. Correspondence accompanying this window is dated 1968.

#### Window 9

The window to the right is Mary of Bethany anointing Christ and is created by Marguerite Gaudin. This window is a memorial to Isabel Baker (1901-1970). This is a creation of Willet Hauser, Philadelphia. Correspondence accompanying this window is dated 1971.

Marguerite Gaudin (1909-1991) was a stained glass artist for Willet for nearly 60 years after graduating from Philadelphia College of Art in 1931. More than 1,000 windows are her creation in all 50 states and five foreign countries. Among her windows are the last six windows in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York and all the windows in the National Presbyterian Church and Chapel, Washington, DC.

#### Window 10

The window located on the east wall of the South Transept is the Good Samaritan window. This window is given by Charlotte Donaldson Hemphill as a memorial to Howard Ernest Taylor (1934-1968). This window is created by Willet Hauser, Philadelphia. Correspondence accompanying this window is dated 1960-1961.

The art glass windows are original to this building and are typical of the type colored glass used around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They are interesting in that depending upon the light passing through the glass they are green or amber. Florescent lighting creates a green color and incandescent creates an amber color.

### **Pipe Organs**

The original pipe organ installed in Grace Church upon the completion of the building in 1911 was removed in the 1980's and replaced with an electronic organ. All that remains of the original organ are the façade pipes and case. The original pipe organ was built by Estey of Brattleboro, Vermont, Opus 888, 1911. It was a small organ with seven ranks (sets) of pipes on two manuals and pedal. Its primary function was to accompany choir and chant.

In 2005 a small pipe organ was purchased to be installed in the space of the original Estey. This pipe organ was built by Reuter Pipe Organ Company, Lawrence, Kansas. It was built for a Catholic church in Jackson, Missouri and was removed and placed in storage. Later the organ was purchased and installed in Grace. The Reuter pipe organ has a bold, yet warm sound and is ideally suited to this room. One rank of this organ was replaced with a rank of higher quality sound. The Reuter Open Diapason was a bit too large for this room and a Moller Open Diapason that was originally part of a larger pipe organ in St. John Lutheran Church, Baltimore (Pimlico) replaced the Reuter Open Diapason. The Moller Open Diapason is much closer in sound to the original Estey Open Diapason.

The pipe organ in the gallery overhead is an Estey that was built in 1909 for Fulton Avenue Evangelical United Brethren Church, Baltimore. This pipe organ is exactly like the original Estey installed in Grace in 1911 with the exception that the 1909 Estey has nine ranks of pipes and a complete set of Deagan class B tubular chimes. The purchase of this Estey organ was partly funded by from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. As of this time Estey 1909 is not playing, however we hope to have it playing for our anniversary year from October 2011 to October 2012. Funds are currently being raised to restore this organ to playing condition and to connect it to our existing pipe organ.

### **Pews**

The pews are original to this building. They are built in the craftsman style of solid oak. At the time the pews were built a common practice in the Episcopal Church was to rent seating space. Families and individuals would pay a rent for their space in a pew. Depending upon where you wished to be seated the rent would be higher or lower with the higher rents nearer the front and center and the lower rents in the rear and on the side. Each pew had a number, they have been removed, however some pews still retain their original brass number.

### **Rood Screen**

The Episcopal Church has its roots in the Church of England and is still part of the Anglican Union. Many churches and cathedrals in England have a rood (wood) screen separating the nave from the sanctuary. The purpose of this screen was to segregate those who were serving mass and those who were partaking. Many screens have gates that would be closed throughout the duration of the mass and opened only at the distribution of communion. Another, more practical purpose for the screen and gates was to keep livestock and animals from roaming onto the sanctuary. For, a few centuries ago the nave of the church or cathedral did not have any seating and everyone attended mass while also going to market. Therefore this precious livestock and animals were kept inside the building with their owners during mass.

The rood screen here is original to this building and was designed by George Worthington and built by Robert Coates and his son Louis. The Rood Screen is given in memory of Richard Cromwell Norris.

### **Altar**

The Altar is original to this building. It is hand carved and is a memorial to Augustus Peter Stryker, Rector of Grace Church (died September 9, 1891) It was used for the first time in October 1911 for the first Holy Eucharist marking the completion of this building.

### **Altar Cross**

The solid brass Cross of ornate carving given in memory of Rebecca Pue Dobbin, 1885.

### **Altar Candlesticks**

The three-candle Candlesticks are dedicated to Grace Church Congregation in memory of Service Men, 1942.

**Procession Cross**

The Procession Cross given in thanksgiving for the recovery of illness of Anne Bathurst Dobbin, Easter 1929.

**Procession Torches**

Torches are given in memory of William Hastings, 1963.

**Communion Table Candlesticks**

Communion table candlesticks given by Grace Church School in memory of Richard G. Norris, Easter 1928.

**Sacramentary Desk**

Sacramentary Desk given by Rev. William Jackson.

**Offering Plates**

Offering Plates given by Robert A. Dobbin and Tilton Hemsley Dobbin in deep gratitude for the safe return of their mother.

**Epistle Ambo**

Epistle Ambo was given in 1911 by Sally Cromwell Corner (1835-1911) in memory of Elizabeth Cromwell Norris (1837-1908).

**Pulpit**

Pulpit is given by Richard T. Newman, 1950. It is interesting to note that the pulpit is not original to this building. Prior to the gift of the pulpit was a second ambo identical to the one on the Epistle side of the Chancel.

**Hand Rails****Brass Baptism Vase**

The brass Baptism Vase located on the small shelf to the far right of the Rood Screen is dedicated to two of the first **Choristers of Grace Church, William Nelson Humphries (February 4, 1881-December 15, 1903) and Harry Howard Shaw (d. May 23, 1901, 22 years old) who died in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**

**Baptism Font**

The molded cement Baptism Font presently located in the right rear corner of the nave does not have any carving, however it is interesting in that it is the original baptismal font for this building and that it is molded concrete. The original plans for this building instructed that this building was to be constructed of poured concrete.

**Bell**

The bell in the tower at the top wall of the South entrance is cast by McShane Foundry, Baltimore. It is now stationary, however it was originally a swing bell.

Questions have been raised concerning the possibility of anything in the present building exists from either of the two previous church buildings. According to first-hand accounts of the two fires, it is highly unlikely that anything survived the intense heat of the fires. However, we do have a few pieces of colored glass that are remnants of the East Window in one of the previous buildings. They are on display in the South Narthex.

Also in the South Narthex is a photo gallery of previous buildings and activities of Grace Church. Please take a moment to see them. They are located in the stair well leading to the upstairs choir vesting room.

In 1995 Grace Church celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On one wall in the South Narthex is a display of letters from notable persons, including President Bill Clinton.

Grace Cemetery is a place in itself to explore. Among some notable deceased is the first United States Surgeon General. You will find his grave marked with a large tombstone with a pyramid shape cap.