

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRACE CHURCH

Founded in 1846, the church was consecrated by Bishop Christopher Edwards Gadsden in 1848. The contract for the church building was \$16,200 plus \$3,000 for a steeple "should the vestry determine to have one." The old parish house/church school building dates from 1881 and was rebuilt in 1919; the new parish hall dates from 1957, and the new rear entrance, offices, choir and vesting rooms were completed in 1992. The building has suffered from great storms, the War Between the States, the 1886 earthquake, and most recently Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Completely restored, the properties stand now as a testimony to years of vision by the people at Grace.

Grace Church has had only nine Rectors -- one with over 25 years of service, and two with over 40 years. They were The Reverends W.W. Spear, (1847-1855), Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1855-1898), E.L. Goodwin (1889-1899), J. W. Gresham (1900-1902), William Way (1902-1946), Ralph S. Meadowcroft (1946-1972), T. Stuart Matthews (1973-1976), and Benjamin B. Smith (1977-1991). The current Rector, the Reverend Donald S. McPhail, was installed as ninth Rector of Grace Church in September 1992.

The Gothic sanctuary is rich in religious symbolism. The stained glass installed during the rectorships of Way and Meadowcroft is particularly meaningful. Most of the window designs were conceived by Meadowcroft, and constructed and installed by Willett Studios of Philadelphia. Centerpieces are the altar window, displaying the sacraments of the church, and the entrance window, depicting Christian responsibility in the world. The clerestory windows record twelve major events in the life of Christ and relate them to institutions of today's world.

Music, an important part of the ministry of Grace Church, is supported by a 40 member concert quality Adult Choir, two children's choirs, a hand-bell choir, and a modified Reuter organ of 56 ranks (61 pipes each) including an antiphonal organ with trompetten-chamade.

WHILE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

To the west of the Church is Croft Hall, the Youth and College Center for the parish. To the east behind the cloister is the Garden of Remembrance, a memorial to those who have died, supported by memorial giving. At the rear of the garden is the octagonal Sacristy.

At the east end of the cloister is the Parish House built in 1957, of collegiate Gothic design. It contains on the first floor the central assembly hall (Hanahan Hall), and on the second floor two splendid large meeting rooms (Dotterer Library and Meadowcroft Room) and a few classrooms. This building adjoins the original Parish House (c. 1919) which now contains the kitchen, nursery and toddler rooms, and classrooms for both children and adults; this portion of the Parish House was completely renovated and modernized following the 1989 hurricane. A modern addition, to include the Church Offices, choir rooms, vesting rooms and foyer, was completed in 1992 at the rear of the sanctuary. A glass atrium roof over the foyer allows natural light to reach the stained glass window over the altar.

TODAY

Grace Church today is a vital growing parish with a full program of worship, education and service. It stands deeply rooted in the past, keenly sensitive to the opportunities of the present, and open and alert to the challenges of the future.

If you would like additional information, please let your wishes be known at the Church Office (entrance from the parking lot at the rear).

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WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US OFTEN
FOR SERVICES, FELLOWSHIP AND
LEARNING

September-May SUNDAYS

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Hymns & Homily
10 a.m. Church School, children & adults
11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

WEDNESDAYS

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
6:00 p.m. Supper
6:45 p.m. Educational Programs

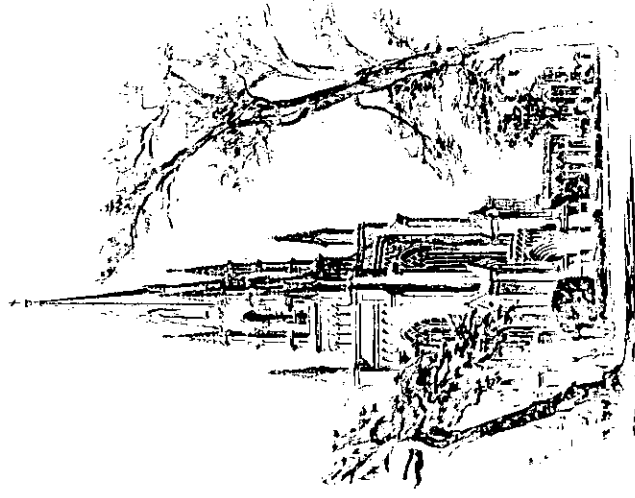
A Nursery is provided on Sundays (9-12:30) and on Wednesdays (5:30-8). Ask about special services and educational programs.

June-August SUNDAYS

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Christian Education, children & adults
10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
A nursery is provided from 8:45-11:30.

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist



Self-Guide for Visitors to

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

98 Wentworth Street, Charleston, South Carolina

The Reverend Donald S. McPhail, Rector

The Rector, Wardens, Vestry and congregation welcome you and hope you will enjoy your tour of this historic Gothic Church, designed by Edward B. White. The congregation of Grace Church was founded in 1846 and the building was consecrated in 1848. We invite you to join us for services and to carry the Gospel into your family and community. While touring, we hope you will also take a moment to kneel and pray:

O Lord, God Almighty, bless, we pray thee, the clergy and people of this church that they may show forth Thy glory by deeds and by gifts for the spread of Thy Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Stopping Place 1

Here at the Baptismal Font, you have a view of the Gothic Narthex. The *Baptism Window* over the Font is rich in symbolism, including: the radiant cross, God; the lamb, Christ; and the dove, the Holy Spirit. Looking up to the left over the side door is one of the first photographic likenesses put into stained glass--a little girl who drowned at a local beach. If you have time, the wall tablets in the Narthex and on the side aisles are interesting. On your way to Stopping Place 2, you pass under the antiphonal organ and trompette-en-chamade and in front of the great entrance window, which will be discussed later in your tour.

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Stopping Place 2

To your left in the rear wall is the *Services Window*, showing items used by the laity in worship services, including organ, prayer desk and eagle lectern (representations of those actually in Grace Church), and showing Christ as King of the World and Christ as Head of the Church. Notice the representation of Grace Church in His hand.

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Stopping Place 3

Direct your attention to your right to view the Nave and the east wall. The faux-sandstone block walls restored after Hurricane Hugo in 1989 were found to be the original wall treatment in 1848. Of special interest is the *Flower Window* to the far right of the east wall which includes the flowers that grew in first century Judea and are mentioned in the New Testament. As you move along this aisle toward the choir, look up at the upper level clerestory windows which depict twelve events in the life of Christ, starting over the pulpit with the *Nativity* and ending over the lectern with the *Ascension*. The six on the east side are, from right to left: *Healing the Sick, the Temptation, the Baptism, the Boy in the Temple, the Epiphany* and the *Nativity*. Each clerestory window includes the seals of modern institutions relating to the theme of the window. For example the window of the *Boy Christ in the Temple*, sometimes called the *Education Window*, contains the seals of the University of South Carolina, the College of Charleston, the City Board of Education, the Citadel

and Ashley Hall School. As you approach the choir, the last window on the left is the the *Apostle's Window*, containing the shields of the twelve apostles. You are now in front of the Reuter organ which, with the antiphonal organ and trompette-en-chamade, includes 56 ranks (61 pipes per rank).

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Stopping Place 4

Looking toward the altar, you see the magnificence of the Gothic architecture that lifts your eyes and your spirit upward. The *Altar Window* depicts the sacraments of the church as one means of God's Grace; from left to right they are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, and Matrimony. Faces in stained glass are usually the product of the artist's imagination, as the celebrants were in these windows until 1970 when they were replaced with photographic images of the three longest-serving Rectors. From left to right, the priests represented are: The Reverend Ralph S. Meadowcroft, The Reverend William Way, and The Reverend Charles Cotesworth Pinckney; the far right is Bishop Christopher Edwards Gadsden who laid the cornerstone and consecrated Grace Church. The four sacrament panels are set against a background of the Book of Revelation. From the ram's horn in the top lancet ("I heard a voice as a trumpet speaking with me"), to the seven candlesticks, the Alpha and Omega, the three crowns, the rainbow, and the four winged creatures, this sermon in glass tells us that the way that Christ comes to us is through the ministry and sacraments of the church. At the bottom of the window, from Revelation, "I am He that liveth." The altar, reredos, credence table, altar rail, lectern and pulpit all contribute to the strength of the Gothic design. As you move toward the east wall, you pass the organ console and face one of the older windows in the church, a geometric design from 1882. The organ console also controls the church bell (F3, diameter 45 inches, 1983 lbs., cast by the Paccard Bellfoundry, Annecy-le-Vieux, France).

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Stopping Place 5

Direct your attention to the west side clerestory windows. From right to left, important events in the life of Christ: the *Ascension, the Resurrection, the*

Crucifixion, the Last Supper, Cleansing of the Temple, and the Transfiguration. The Crucifixion is a copy of the famous painting by Salvador Dali. At ground level at the far left end of the west wall, notice the *Women's Window* which memorializes the role of women in God's work. The top lancet symbolizes Eve, Hannah and Ruth just below, the Virgin Mary surrounded by Saints (Elizabeth, Mary of Bethany, Hilda, Margaret), Anglicans Frideswide and Susanna Wesley; also Henrietta Szold who founded the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Mrs. Florence Rodgers, lifelong member of Grace, is shown in front of her Charleston single house. This window is the most recent in Grace Church, having been installed in 1972.

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Stopping Place 6

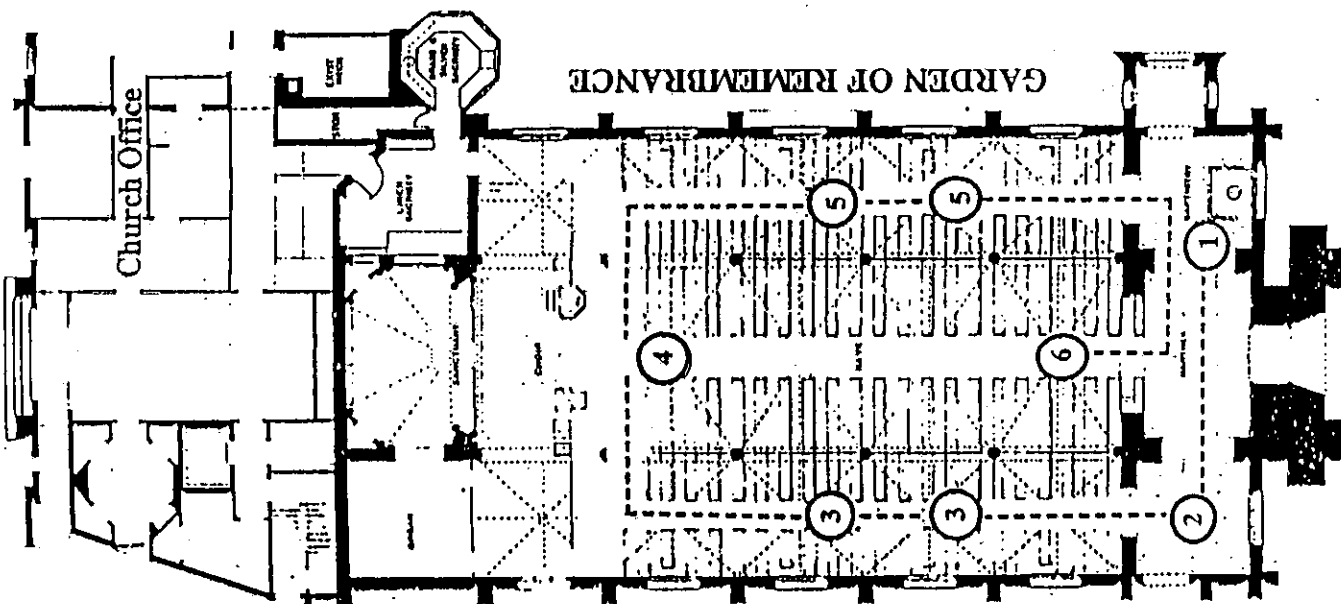
Above the great doors is the *Christian Life Window*, which contains more than 10,000 individual pieces of glass. The triumphant Christ stands upon the world giving the Great Commission, "Go ye therefore into the world and teach all nations..." On the left of Christ are men who have taken His Gospel to the ends of the earth, including Peter (with the keys), Paul, Martin Luther and Albert Schweitzer. On the right are women who have accepted the Great Commission including Dorcas, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale (with the light), and Clara Barton. The flankers show the first Eucharist celebrated in America at Jamestown, and Edward Rutledge of Charleston signing the Declaration of Independence. Above the Master are medallions representing Christians of various periods fulfilling the commission: St. Columba of Iona, St. Augustine of Canterbury, John Wycliffe, and John Wesley. The lower medallions symbolize Christian living today: in the home, school, church, courtroom and industry. Notice the many seals which represent areas of Christian responsibility: the Diocese of South Carolina, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the United States of America, the City of Charleston, the State of South Carolina, Grace Episcopal Church, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the United Nations.

Now go in peace and serve the Lord!

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PARKING LOT



WENTWORTH STREET