



Grace Notes
November 2012

Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH

From the Priest in Charge

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro

My first day of Greek class in seminary was a game changer. On that day the professor delved into the meaning behind the Greek word *leitourgia*, “liturgy.” At that class I learned that *leitourgia* isn’t really one word, but two. Two Greek words, the word for “people” and the verb “to do” combine to form the word “liturgy,” which literally means “the work of the people.” While it might seem that the clergy is up front and center leading worship, the real action and connection to God is happening in the midst of the congregation. It is the voices, hearts, and prayers of the people, the holy work of those sitting, kneeling, standing in the pews that matters the most.

A few days before my ordination to the priesthood, the bishop who presided over that service sat down with me to remind of the essence of the word “liturgy” again. Bishop James Moodey told me **he** wouldn’t be the one to **make** me a priest. It would be God and the prayers of those who gathered who would do the lion’s share of the work. While it might look that he and other clergy were doing all the work – laying hands upon my head and praying over me, it was the **people** who lifted me up to God with their words and souls and gifted me the title of Reverend. It was the cathedral congregation where I served that would ordain me and consecrate me for a lifetime of ministry.

I invite you to be open to doing the work of the people, “liturgy,” in three new ways:

- (1) Enjoy, on the third Sunday of each month, worship that includes children of all ages. Shortened prayers, a brief homily, and prayers from both the Church of England and Wales will help us gather and hear the Word of God in new ways.
- (2) Thank God for your many blessings by attending an ecumenical service in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday on Monday, November 19th at Saint Anne - Saint Augustin Catholic Parish (383 Beech Street in Manchester) at 7 PM where I will serve as the guest preacher. Or, if you prefer, come for a quiet, reflective Eucharist in our own Saint Michael’s Chapel (no music) on Wednesday, November 21st at 7 PM.
- (3) Consider performing a role or being behind the scenes for our annual pageant, this year in honor of Saint Nicholas’ Day. Rehearsal for this pageant will take place on Saturday, December 8th at 10 AM and will be performed on Sunday, December 9th. Special thanks to Carter Beck for this wonderful idea and his willingness to assist in directing and organizing this event.

Thanks be to God that we find Christ’s blessings in one another and in the work and worship of our parish family. Marjorie+

DATES FOR HONORING BISHOP GENE, INSTALLING BISHOP ROB

A reminder to all that there are two special gatherings to meet, greet, and honor of Bishop Robinson's episcopate:

- **November 3rd**, 2012 (2 to 4 p.m.) at All Saints Church, Littleton
- **November 10th**, 2012 (1 to 4 p.m.) at the Grappone Conference Center, Concord

Each of these are designed as open opportunities for anyone – members of the church and wider community – to gather and express appreciation for Bishop Gene's extraordinary and courageous ministry. They are drop-in events, but there will be special presentations at the midpoint of each event (3:00 p.m. in Littleton and 2:30 p.m. in Concord).

Additionally there will be a festive Celebration Eucharist in honor of Bishop Gene Robinson's episcopacy on Friday, October 26th, 7 PM at Saint Paul's Church, Concord. This will serve as the convention Eucharist and all delegates will be guaranteed a ticket. Additional tickets will be distributed to the parishes. ***Please call our church office and let Marlene Thompson, our parish administrator, know if you would like a ticket for Gene's Celebration Eucharist.***

Also, please note that Bishop Rob Hirschfeld will be installed at Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire at Saint Paul's Church, Concord, on Saturday, January 5, 2013. Time and ticket information for that event will be forthcoming.

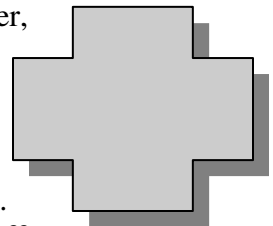
Grace Church will again be sponsoring a blood drive in December. It will take place at the Red Cross Blood Donor Center, 425 Reservoir Ave, Manchester on

Saturday December 15 from 7:30 AM to 12:30

PM. Please plan to donate if you are eligible, and encourage friends and family to do the same. If you would like to greet donors, please let me know.

Donating blood is one of the greatest gifts we can offer, as the birthday of our Lord approaches.

The Rev Jane W Van Zandt





Although it's only the beginning of November, the Outreach Committee has been busy planning the Christmas Giving Tree project to help make the holidays special for needy children from McDonough and Wilson Schools and a few families housed at The Way Home. When you see the lists—mostly underwear, socks, and warm clothing—you get a sense of the need. Grace Church parishioners have been extremely generous in the past. Once again, let's help these children have a warm and happy Christmas.

On Sunday, November 13 a tree will be set up with paper mittens listing Christmas wishes of the children. Choose a mitten from the tree and shop for an item or items listed on the mitten. You are not expected to buy everything on the list (**it's a wish list, not a shopping list**). While we understand that some of you would like to buy as much as possible for children in need, we are trying to make the distribution of gifts more equitable with a **maximum of three gifts per child**. If you really want to buy more, consider taking a second mitten or contributing additional money so that we can purchase gifts for the inevitable latecomers who thought they would be able to afford gifts and at the last minute discover that there is no money left for Christmas.

Wrap your gifts and return them to church no later than **Sunday, December 4** so we can arrange for delivery. If you cannot shop personally but would like to help with a donation, please give it to any member of the Outreach Committee or the church office by **Sunday, November 27**.

As the paper mittens disappear, replace them with real hats and mittens which will be delivered to the schools after Christmas.

We--and the children--really appreciate your help!

A CALL TO THANK ALL CURRENT USHERS AND REACH OUT FOR NEW USHERS!

We are really in need of several more ushers both at 8:00 and, especially, at 10:30. It is a great way to give of yourself to the church and the weekly service. The schedule is set on a rotating basis and, if you are not able to serve on Sunday, there's always help with coverage. Please contact one of the ushers and or call Linda Heath (627-3816) We would love to have you join the team.

Linda Heath

November Book Club Gatherings:

To Kill A Mockingbird and April, 1865: The Month That Saved America

Groucho Marx once said, “I find television to be very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go in the other room and read a book.”

Thanks to the following individuals who entered into active, soulful dialogue at the Stagnaro home to delve into our October book choice, A Tree Grows In Brooklyn: Mary Carol Collings, Nancy-Ann Feren, Marjorie Gerbracht- Stagnaro, Anne Harvey, Larry Kinsman, Martha Manley, Betsy Staulcup, Jane Van Zandt, and Emmy Wyatt.

In November our lunch time group will convene at 12 noon on Tuesday, November 13th at the home of Nancy-Ann Feren at (412 Warren Street, Manchester) to discuss the book To Kill A Mockingbird. Published in 1960 by the author Harper Lee, the book was an immediate success and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961. Considered a modern literature classic, the plot and characters are loosely based on the author's observations of her family and neighbors, as well as on an event that occurred near her hometown in 1936 when she was 10 years old. The novel is renowned for its warmth and humor, despite dealing with the serious issues of rape and racial inequality.

Our dinner time group has elected to read April, 1865: The Month That Saved America. Written by Jay Winik, writer, historian, and regular contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, the text looks at the Civil War's final days and how those days were pivotal towards birthing our nation. This New York Times best-selling chronicle, published in 2001, proves that the final month of war could have destroyed our country. Yet instead a series of remarkable and game changing events saved and re-made our nation. This book will be discussed at the home of Emmy Wyatt (10 Pembroke Way, Bedford) on Wednesday, November 14th at 6:30 PM.



If you are interested in attending either book club, please contact our parish office and let us know if you are able to contribute a dessert, drinks, side vegetable dish, or a salad for either gathering.

Blessings, Marjorie+

Reflections AND THOUGHTS

Shareholders vs. Stakeholders

I can't remember where it was, but I recall reading a comment that described a difference between shareholders and stakeholders. Basically, a shareholder was described as anyone who owned stock (shares) in a company. A short-term shareholder was often in it for a quick profit and didn't care where the company went, but a long-term shareholder was different. For them, it mattered where the company was headed because their long-term interests were "at stake".

Stakeholders are also more likely to care about the morality of the company governance, and about how management focuses on the long-term growth of the company. As an example, of shareholders that were also stakeholders, I found a piece on line (NY Times, Apr 17) that described how shareholders at CitiGroup voted against a pay package for five top executives because they felt it was excessive, especially since it was not based entirely on merit, and some of their tax money had gone to bail out the firm.

Another example happened years ago when some nuns objected to the way Walmart was treating their own employees, including very low pay. They addressed their concerns by buying some Walmart stock. Now, because they owned shares in the company, they were able to come to a shareholder meeting, present their complaints and make a motion to change the policies. It took a long time, but policies were gradually changed.

These look like small things in terms of the enormous US economy, but they are in the right direction, and show what can be done with a bit of focused effort. So, how does this relate to Grace Church economics? For one thing, parishioner giving in terms of dollars per person is relatively high in the diocese. For another, we pay our full Fair Share to the diocese while other parishes do not. A third thing is that we are rapidly approaching our monetary goal for the Handicap Access Lift. And all of this is in a down economy. This tells me that the people who "share" in the life of Grace Church feel they have a "stake" in where we are going.

Dick Feren

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE
DONATED TOWARDS THE LIFT FUND:
*OUR TOTAL THUS FAR WITH
PREVIOUS DONATIONS IS \$83,986.11***

Lydia Adams
Sally Addison
Robert & Sandi Albom
Mark & Christine Anderson
William & Bobbi Arnold
Mary Atwell
Deacon Joan Barr-Smith
Carter Beck
Bob & Pauline Bell
Ian & Carole Blenkinsop
William & Susan Bochinski
Carol Boire
Douglas & Linda Chamberlain
David & Jane Charlesworth
Glenn & Mary Carol Collings
John & Katherine-Ann Day
Arthur & Maria Douglas
Jay & Sally Douglass
Dick & Nancy-Ann Feren
Rev Dan & Janet Ferry
William & Lissa Foote
Robert & Barbara Fox
Karen Furtado & Mary Sargent
Robert & Michelle Garneau
Rev Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro & Brent Stagnaro
Richard Gesner
Patrick & Tracy Gillick
Nicholas & Nancy Girgus
Linda Heath
Barbara Hermann
James & Susan Higgins
Edward High
Gerald & Joan Holleran

Robert & Nancy Johnson
Richard Jefferson
Janet Keegan
William & Susan King
Janet Knab
Rev Allan Knight & Rev Jane Van Zandt
Warren & Dottie Koch
James Lee & Barbara Brewka
Miclana Bonner Linares
William & Ann Marvin
Anne McDonough
Stephen Merrill
Janet Mills
William & Christina Miner
David Murray
Tom & Maureen Nagle
Ken & Jill Porter
Hobart & Barbara Rand
Dr. Stewart & Carolyn Richmond
Bradley & Ashley Rousseau
David & Melissa Roy
Deborah Schuh
Nancy Stantial
Elizabeth Staulcup
Rev Robert Swanson
Bruce & Darby Thomas
Bernard & Susan Tonnar
Brian & Meghan White
Kurt Wicks
Charles Woodbury
Edward & Ellen Zimmerman

***If you have donated and your name is missing
from this list, please contact the church office.***

CELEBRATING BISHOP ROBINSON AT GRACE CHURCH

Our diocese's time with Bishop Gene Robinson as our shepherd is drawing to an end. We look forward to a formal visitation from our new bishop, Bishop Robert Hirschfeld, on Sunday, December 2nd, at both our 8 and 10:30 AM services.

In order that our parish and the wider community of Manchester can give a proper farewell to Gene, Grace Episcopal Church will be hosting a gathering in Gene's honor. **A movie screening of the documentary about Bishop Robinson's life, Love Free Or Die, will be shown at 6:30 PM at our parish on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.** (The date is easy to remember - 12-12-12!) Gene will be present at this event to both introduce the film and sign copies of his new book that came out in September of this year titled God Believes in Love. Copies will be available for purchase in our Great Hall at a reception following the film.

Our parish will accept free will donations at this event. All proceeds will be given to finance an endowment fund for continued work in the chaplaincy program at The New Hampshire Prison for Women where Bishop Robinson did extensive ministry during his tenure as our bishop.

Please join us for film, food, and a festive celebration honoring Bishop Gene Robinson on 12-12-12 beginning at 6:30 PM.

Vestry Notes
September, 2012 Vestry Meeting
Karen Furtado, Clerk

The open seat on the vestry has been filled by Mark Bartram. Mark will fill out the remainder of the full term which expires in 14 months. We are all very excited to have Mark join us.

The draft July and August operating fund statements are looking strong for this time of year. The year to date actuals are \$1,932.53 ahead of budget due to lower expenses. The revenue for both months is running under budget but that is typical for summer months. The property committee has been working on the renewal of the Palace Theater lease. The updated lease has been approved to be presented to the Palace Theater.

The Stewardship committee has delayed the start of the Stewardship Pledge Campaign so the Elevator Lift fundraising effort can be the focus of September. The Lift Campaign is in full swing with an outreach program that touched all parishioners. The vestry is so grateful for the generosity of so many who have donated to make this such a successful initiative.

Christian Formation has been focused on creating a curriculum this year based on the lectionary format. This year the children from Sunday school will be part of the church service once a month. For the younger children, a box of activities will be available at the back of the church to use during the service. The 3rd Sunday of the month will be Box Sunday.

Grace Church is planning a special evening in December to honor the retiring bishop Gene Robinson. The evening will include a screening of 'Love Free or Die' as well as a book signing.

Grace Episcopal Church

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gracechurch@attglobal.net
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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Priest In-Charge
The Rev. Joan Barr Smith, Deacon

Vestry

Christine Anderson, Warden Ellen Zimmerman, Warden
Karen Furtado, Clerk Ed High, Treasurer
Richard Feren, Assistant Treasurer

2010-2013 Janet Knab, William Bochinski, Edward Doyle
2011-2014 Ann Hewins, Katharine Strong, Mark Bartram
2012-2015 Mary Carol Collings, Linda Heath, Kevin von Braun

Staff

Mark Cleveland, Director of Music
Carter Beck, Organist
Justin & Nicole Otto, Church School Coordinators
Marlene Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Emery Freethey, Sexton
Susan Senneville, Nursery Care Giver

Newsletter

Lauren Cline
Lauren6997@yahoo.com

Next Newsletter Deadline

November 15, 2012

Grace Notes

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106 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101-1625
www.gracechurchmanchester.org
November, 2012

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