



Grace Notes

May 2016

Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH

From the Rector — Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro Going Deep and Wide

This past Friday I did something for the first time in five years. I returned to the classroom at my children's school, McDonough Elementary. I taught for a full hour, introducing the British children's author, Emer Stamp, to 24 Grade 3 students through art, literature, video, read aloud time, and a question and answer dialogue. I was extremely nervous before the class, but once I began I realized how much I loved (and honestly missed) being in a classroom environment. Once again I understood the words of theologian Frederick Buechner: *"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*

There is a song I sang with nursery and Kindergarten students in school chapels when I was at my last cure. The lyrics of the song were simple and went like this: *Deep and wide. Deep and wide. Like a fountain flowing, deep and wide. Deep and wide. Deep and wide. Like a fountain flowing, deep and wide.*

Faith expands within each one of us both in internal and external ways. We all seek to go deep, to stretch ourselves inward through prayer, reading, silence, community, yoga, or any number of other ways. But we also seek to go wide – to share the love, hope, strength with others we gain from our faith through service, liturgy, song, social justice, philanthropy.

I am so thankful that our "fountain" of faith, Grace Episcopal Church, is trying to go deeper and wider on a number of levels. I give thanks for Christine Anderson, the staff of Goodwin's Funeral Home, and 30 members of our congregation who gathered over the past two weeks to deepen their understanding of end of life issues. I give thanks for the small band of parishioners working to understand the refugee situation here on a deeper level in our city and "go wide" by collecting kitchen donations to supply kitchen equipment for three refugee families. I give thanks for Christopher Potter, a former member of our parish, who will be speaking at a forum titled "God's Work Through Prayer" at Saint Anselm's on Thursday, June 2nd from 7 to 8:30 PM to challenge his listeners about racial justice. *(To register for this event to hear and support Chris Potter please go to <http://www.faithforwardfuture.com>).*

I give thanks for the servant ministry done by so many of our parish community through Laundry Love and New Horizons.

Finally, I rejoice that we have a vibrant and holy Jesus lover at the helm of our Church in the form of Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Michael Curry. **ALL are welcome to come and hear our Presiding Bishop on Monday, June 6th from 10 AM to 12 noon at Saint Paul's Church located at 21 Centre Street in Concord, New Hampshire. No registration is required to attend this event.**

May the warmer days of spring and summer encourage us to go deep and wide and live in the spirit of Jesus.

Much love,
Marjorie +

Grace Church Family,

There is a Christian song, written by Bruce Carroll, that says this:

*I'd rather see a sermon
Than to hear one anyday
I'd rather one would walk with me
Than merely show the way
Actions speak much louder
Than all the words can say
That's why I'd rather see a sermon
Than hear one any day*

I am grateful for the living sermons I see every day. One of those living sermons I know and love is a gracious, Jesus centered woman named Mary Sargent. For the past year and a half, Mary has served, alongside the remarkable and energetic Linda Heath, as one of two Wardens who have led our Vestry, our church leadership team, here at Grace Episcopal. Mary, Linda, and I have loved being together, growing in Christ through laughter and conversation, dreaming and praying about how our parish can love and live out the ministry of Christ in the greater city of Manchester. With Mary's thoughtful

words, mighty gifts in meeting facilitation, and holy heart our Vestry has grown into an honest, reflective community of leaders.

This past Monday Linda Heath and I accepted Mary Sargent's resignation as Warden of our parish. Mary, currently on vacation with her wife Karen, asked me to send you these words: *"I am stepping down from my Vestry service as I have come to learn that while I am feeling so much better, I simply don't have enough energy and focus yet to do all I want to do. Please know I will still be a very active member of Grace Church and be here to support the work of the Vestry."* All of us who know and love Mary are grateful for the prayerful leadership she has given to the Vestry during her tenure as Warden.

I am pleased to announce that Ann Hewins, a long time leader within the Stewardship Committee, Planning and Finance Committee, and as a Vestry member has agreed to step into the role of Warden for the remainder of the 2016 year. I am thrilled that Ann is willing to continue leading the spiritual path that Mary has helped us carve. I am confident Ann's can do attitude, deep sense of integrity, and courageous voice will strengthen the Vestry.

Give thanks for these two holy women, Mary and Ann, who continue to strive to love and serve in Christ's name.

With love and admiration,
Marjorie +

A Soul to A Face

At my previous job each month we interviewed a parishioner, asking him or her five random questions. Then we published the answers and a picture of the person interviewed in our parish newsletter. It was a great way to get to know parish members.

If you have a random question or are willing to be interviewed for this type of article, please let me (Marjorie) know.

Today we introduce Thomas Suckley, III, a life-long member of our parish community. Tom was just honored at a recent 8 AM service for his dependable, faithful service as the individual who mows our lawn all summer every year here at Grace Episcopal Church. I asked him the following questions:

Who are your favorite sports teams? TOM: *I like the Fisher Cats, the Patriots, the Monarchs, the Bruins, and my favorite, the Boston Red Sox. My all time favorite player is Jason Varitek because he does his best no matter what the score is. I met him once, and he smiled at me.*

Who is your favorite animal on the planet? TOM: *My favorite animal is my puppy Fred. He's not really a puppy, but he gets in lots of trouble so we say he is.*

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? TOM: *I want to go to Bolton, England to visit with one of my mom's best friends. When Mom retires, we're going to go.*



What is your favorite book? TOM: *My mom and I read every night, and then I write a few lines about what we read. I like Harry Potter and we've read a lot of The Hardy Boys. But my favorite is a series about a smart dog named Luthor. It's really good.*

What do you love most about Grace Episcopal Church? TOM: *It's hard to say what I like best about Grace Church. I love to serve. I like sitting with the Ferens because they are so nice and Mr. Feren makes good jokes. I like the way the sun shines through the big window and makes the colors dance on the floor. I like it when the golden pinwheel over the organ spins. I just like being there, and I'm glad I get to cut the grass.*

VESTRY MEETING
Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Present: Gail Austin, Lauren Cline, Steven Botana-Gumbs, Linda Heath, Ann Hewins, James Higgins, Edward High, Linda Lassonde, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Nancy Johnson

Absent (excused): Richard Feren, Mary Sargent, Miclana Linares, Kevin Von Braun, Jason Carignan

Guest: Gary York

The meeting was opened in prayer at 7:05 PM by Marjorie. We then proceeded with the reading of the Norms.

VOTE: A motion to accept the Clerk's Report was made by Anne and seconded by Linda H and was carried.

Our guest speaker, Gary York began by introducing himself. He stated that he has been a parishioner for 2 years and usually attends the 8:00 o'clock service. He owns a company which installs industrial control equipment. He provides project management at his company and is also a master electrician. He was consulted for our emergency issue of the short circuit of the organ circuit after the asbestos abatement had been done. Elite Electric, the company the church has usually used was not available. Gary brought in Russ from Gemini Electric (his company has done business with Gemini for 16-18 years). Upon inspection they found the short circuit and discovered that because of the dry conditions in the building and the age of the equipment many other circuit boxes were also in need of repair. Russ spent a day and a half repairing the most egregious problems in the adjacent circuits. (The cost of this initial repair was \$720 labor and \$40 materials). They found a number of conditions that have to be repaired. The church has had a number of different contractors who have not done repairs that are up to code. There are a number of open wires that are not terminated properly. Gary showed the Vestry some pictures of some of the problems found. The Vestry had requested that we get quotes for the repair of our electric system. Gary stated that it would be almost impossible to do a quoted price for the entire work; it would probably be in the vicinity of \$25000. He recommended that we use time and material approach with a qualified electrician and have the repairs done with an incremental approach – do about 2 days a month with a cost of \$1000-\$1500 a month. The first thing would be to track down the wires and their terminations and then address the deficiencies found. Gary said that he would act as the project manager of this project. He suggested that we start with a \$7,500

cap; an electrician would have a better idea of what would be left to do.

Gary also reported that one of the main beams was cracked. Team Engineering assessed the property and recommended how the beam should be repaired. This is one of the last beams that have not been reinforced. Empire Sheet Metal can repair the beam by drilling into the beam and reinforcing it with metal supports. It will take two men one day to perform the repair for a cost of \$1750.

The Vestry viewed the photos and discussed the projects with Gary. It was decided that all monetary decisions would be addressed at the end of the meeting.

The vestry reviewed the Rector's Report. We were informed that Mary Sargent has resigned as Warden because of health considerations. Mary would, however, still write a letter to the Bishop requesting that we be provided a Deacon. Rev. Marjorie then asked that the members of the Vestry supply two names of people they felt would make a good Warden and who would make a good addition to the Vestry.

VOTE: A motion to accept the Rector's Report was made by Ed, seconded by Linda and was carried.

Ed presented the February financial report and said that the March report was not finalized since the endowments have been posted today. We will review the March financial report at the next meeting. He reported that we are running with a larger deficit than anticipated. He stated that many Easter donations had not come in until April and pledges were not up to date. Ed said that we need to find ways to either raise income or decrease expenditures.

Rev. Marjorie said that the Stewardship Committee had discussed the fact that many people don't write many if any checks today. They discussed how to have other ways for people to pay their pledges. Some of the ways discussed were as follows: direct deposit pay pal, set up with a phone number, etc. Mary has made up questions that will be used – we would want to have the parishioners vote on "what option would you like".

VOTE: Ann made a motion to accept the February financial report, seconded by Linda H and was carried.

The Vestry discussed budget concerns. It was noted that we can't expect to immediately increase funds and should look to see how we could decrease our expenditures.

(cont'd)

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We have a number of issues with the facilities (church and Grace House) that need to be addresses. In the past many of these issues were overlooked and have now reached the point where we can no longer overlook them (such as the beam, electrical, etc.). The Vestry discussed how we have to prioritize the fixes.

We discussed the music department budget which is quite large. It was noted that the music is an important element for our parishioners and community; cutting the music program would affect those who come for the music (both the choir members and parishioners). We then discussed possible ways of finding creative funding events. Rev. Marjorie state how this fall (September through December) was going to be a particularly music heavy. The church is going to celebrate its 175th anniversary where it is planned that we will celebrate with a sung evensong. We have sent three possible dates to the Bishop to see which would fit into his schedule. The choir will still prepare for Lessons and Carols

Laundry Love has grown in attendance. The cost for the event is \$700 per month. The owners of the laundromat are no longer willing to contribute to this. Brian and Rev. Marjorie will try to negotiate with them. Brian has secured a donor who is willing to match (up to \$3000) of donations made to Laundry Love.

Budget issues will be further discussed next month.

VOTE: Lauren made a motion which was seconded by Ed to accept the applications of Jonathon Edward Cross, Greg Paul Desaulniers, and Mark Thomas Critz as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. The motion carried.

Rev. Marjorie reported that many people in our parish would like to be ordained. A person has come forward who wishes to pay for Sandi Albom. The general costs are \$750 each for the candidate, sponsor, and diocese. The cost to the church for sponsoring a deacon is much more. We discussed creating a fund where people could donate for this purpose. We could seed it with the funds that had been donated for Rev. Joan Barr-Smith.

VOTE: Linda H. made a motion that a fund be created and named the "Rev. Joan Barr-Smith Fund" which would help fund candidates that were wishing

to be ordained. This was seconded by Lauren and passed.

VOTE: A motion was made by Linda L. and seconded by Steve to have the cracked beam repaired by Empire Sheet Metal for the cost of \$1750. The motion carried.

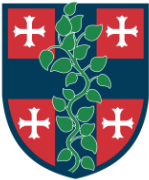
VOTE: A motion to have Russ (from Gemini) do the initial electrical work on an incremental basis within 6 months with an initial cap of \$7500 (\$3000 will be covered by an anonymous donation) and have Greg York be the project manager reporting to the Property Committee was made by Jim, seconded by Ann, and passed.

The Vestry was strongly recommended to attend the Dioceses Lay Leadership/Vestry Training Conference May 6th and May 7th.

Each year the Vestry does not meet on one of the summer months. This year the Vestry will not meet in July but will meet in August. The meeting was adjourned following a prayer by Rev. Marjorie at 8:57 PM. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

VOTE: a vote by email was made and passed that Ann Hewins be appointed as Warden for the year 2016.

Respectfully submitted Nancy Johnson, Clerk



By the Grace of God and the People
consenting, the Bishop of New Hampshire,
the Right Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld will ordain

Maryan Davis and Johanna Young

to the

Sacred Order of Deacons

In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Sunday, June 12, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. *(Reception to follow)*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

21 Centre Street, Concord, NH

Your prayers and presence are requested. *Clergy: Red stoles*

Reflections AND THOUGHTS

Entropy and Time

Many years ago when I was teaching high school science, I used to have a sign that said "Caution. Do not disturb. This desk is a study in Entropy." It was taped on the end of my desk so it would be seen when you entered the room. It was there for some time before a student finally asked what it meant. When I told them that entropy meant "increasing disorder," they looked at my desk and understood. Entropy is a natural phenomenon, and is also the reason that so many people are making money writing books and doing workshops on how to "Organize Your Space." I'm sure we can all identify with having to sort the clothes in a closet or clear off a table or organize the contents of a garage. And there is another dimension to this problem, specifically, how to deal with the trash.

Once the space is organized, and there is a pile of junk to get rid of, we are sometimes faced with the question of how to do it. Do we want to just throw it into the trash, or should we take the time to sort it further so it can be recycled? Sometimes that means taking things apart and separating components into piles that can be recycled in different ways. Sorting things into piles that can be properly recycled actually means reversing the process of entropy, and that takes time and energy. The need for extra time is why some people are reluctant to recycle things properly, and it might relate to a saying that goes "Don't waste time. It is the only thing you won't get more of."

My concern relates to the environmental impact. If we don't take the time to reuse or to recycle properly, or if we use too many things that can't be recycled in order to "save time," is it actually having the opposite effect and reducing our available time on this planet?

Noon Day Book Group Continues Through The Summer

*“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend.
Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.”*

- Answer Marjorie received when she asked Siri
how many pages were in the book The Nightingale.

On April 19th, 2016 15 people gathered at Grace Episcopal Church at noon to eat well and discuss the book The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant. It’s always hard to tell which is better – the book we are contemplating or the food we eat! Whether you like books, a good meal, or both – all are welcome to attend our gatherings, which occur the third Tuesday of every month.

Because summer is such a perfect time to read, our group has decided to continue gathering in our Parish Library throughout the summer for a trinity F’s – food, fun, and fellowship. Next month we will be deciding on what books to read in the coming year, so if you have a book suggestion please e-mail Anne Lake at ASLO3104@aol.com OR just come and share your recommended reads in person.

Please join us on the following days to eat well and spend time with other members of your Grace Church family at 12 noon the third Tuesday of every month in the Parish Library.

Our remaining reads for the spring and summer seasons are:

May 17, 2016: Wonder by P. J. Palacio ~ *“Published in 2012, this children’s novel was written after the author feared her younger son (at the time 3 years old) would react badly after noticing a girl with facial birth defects sitting beside him as they were waiting in line to buy ice cream. Palacio removed her son from the situation so as not to upset her or the girl’s family but ended up only intensifying the situation.”*

June 21, 2016: We are Not Ourselves by Matthew Thomas ~ *“Thomas takes his readers slowly and somewhat unexpectedly deep inside a family battling the gray-toned middling place of their middle class existence.”*
(cont’d)

July 19, 2016: The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah ~ “A weeper and a thinker, this Book tells the story of two French sisters – one in Paris, one in the countryside – during WW II.”

August 16, 2016: The Red Tent by Anita Diamant ~ “2016 celebrates the 20th anniversary of the publication of this book. Told in the voice of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and the sister of a dozen brothers, this book is a valuable achievement in modern fiction: a new view of Biblical women’s society.”

Happy summer reading!
Marjorie +

“Instrument of Note, Part I”

How the Estey Reed Organ/Harmonium came to Grace Church.
From Ken Grinnell: Last year, the Robert Fox Family donated the lovely, antique reed organ or “harmonium” to the church. At that point, the instrument was in a virtually unplayable condition and in need of total restoration. Fortunately for all of us, the inner beauty and potential usefulness to the Grace Church music ministry were evident, and an appeal to the parish for donations both to restore the reed organ and fund the brass and percussion for the Easter services was most successful. Both efforts were completely funded as a result.

In the words of Rob Fox:

Based on the serial number, the instrument was born in 1915. We don’t know whether it was deployed in WWI or WWII. Given its age, it’s quite possible that it was used in some limited military capacity since it is a Military Chaplain’s Field Organ. At the very least, one could certainly envision it being used at welcoming home celebrations and at Veteran’s Day celebrations locally.

By 1954 +/-, when I was first personally introduced to the instrument, “she” was residing at the Dobbs Ferry South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs-Ferry-on-Hudson, NY. At that time, my family was moving out of our rental house to move into a new home not far away in Irvington

Apparently, after my parents had made the arrangements to move out and set the date to leave the rental house, there was an unexpected delay in the new home being ready for us to move in. The pastor of the South Presbyterian Church, Rev. David Kendall, and his family including their five children who lived in the Manse next to the church, graciously agreed to let us stay with them in the Manse until our new home was ready. At that time, the organ lived in the partially finished basement of the manse and operated as a playroom for their kids (and my older brother and me) when it wasn't being used as a meeting room for church and youth groups. I remember at that time being so small that I was unable to reach the pedals and my older brother and I had to take turns pushing the pedals with our hands and playing the keys. During meetings, she was played by everyone, people who could play and those, like us kids, who played at playing her. But she graciously sounded off for everyone, according to their ability and temperament.

The first formal use for her that I recall was at the outdoor Easter Sunrise Services. She was also played at outdoor weddings, many of which were held in the church gardens behind the manse, as well as at many other church and community outdoor celebrations and events. According to family lore, my mother, who founded and ran the Church Community Nursery School which was housed in the then new church addition, used to occasionally take her outside and play for the young children or play her inside when they'd learn dances-movements, sing or make something up while they frolicked. Heaven only knows what makes a 3 or 4 year old go like they do but according to my mom, the music had a calming effect. She also used to play her during Nursery School "graduation" celebrations which were held outdoors, weather permitting or in the great hall.

End Part I.

Part II will appear in the June edition of "Grace Notes."
A dedication of the instrument is planned for Sunday, June 12.

MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to our May birthday celebrants!

2	Madlyn Gregoire	19	Dottie Koch
4	Owen St. Onge	20	Yar Leek
5	Linn Krikorian	23	Ian Blenkinsop
6	Lyn Marino		Fiona Stagnaro
	Louis Hudon		Michael Duffy
7	Jode Lassonde		Holden Kreiger
9	Carter Beck	27	Bob Swanson
10	Tim Lassonde	29	Leighton Ricker
12	Sally Addison	30	Robert Garneau
14	Dwight Simmons		Quinn Turner
17	David Roy	31	Matthew Costley
18	Eddie Cummings		
	Megan McIver		

If you don't see your birthday listed that means that we do not have it. Please call the office so that your special day can be acknowledged – or if we have it wrong, please let us know that also

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, page 830

Other Milestones:

Baptism: Benedict James Giorgi – April 24th

Marriages: Gregory Paul Desaulniers to

Henry George Tidd-Gagnon – April 30th

~~MANY OF YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED A NEW YELLOW LAMINATED CARD BEHIND THE NEW MEMBER INFORMATION CARD AT THE END OF EACH PEW. THESE YELLOW CARDS HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO RECEIVE SPECIAL PRAYERS IN THE CHAPEL DURING COMMUNION. THEY ALSO INCLUDE A BRIEF EXPLANATION ON THE PURPOSE OF THE PRAYER AND HEALING MINISTRY AT OUR CHURCH.~~

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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector

Vestry

Linda Heath, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

Ann Hewins, Warden
Ed High, Treasurer

Richard Feren, Assistant Treasurer

Gail Austin, Steven Botana-Gumbs, Jason Carignan, Lauren
ClineJames Higgins, Linda Lasonde, Miclena Linares,
Kevin von Braun

Staff

Mark Cleveland, Director of Music

Ken Grinnell, Organist

Carter Beck, Organist

Justin & Nicole Otto, Church School Coordinators

Marlene Thompson, Parish Administrator

Lyn Marino, Assistant Parish Administrator

Jill Porter, Bookkeeper

Emery Freethey, Sexton

Susan Senneville, Nursery Care Giver

Newsletter

Lauren Cline

Lauren6997@yahoo.com

Next Newsletter Deadline

May 15, 2016

Grace Notes

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May, 2016

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