

Grace Notes

Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101-1625
www.gracechurchmanchester.org
September, 2016

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September 2016

Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH

From the Rector - Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro

The name **CITY YEAR** reflects the idea that just as young people enroll in a freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior year in school, they should also dedicate themselves to a "city year" of full-time service, idealism, civic engagement, and leadership development.

GRACE CHURCH GIVES HOSPITALITY TO CITY YEAR CORP MEMBERS AGAIN

This year, for the third year in a row, our church is pleased to provide affordable housing for six young women who are part of the 2016-2017 New Hampshire City Year Corps. The City Year program was begun in 1988 by two Harvard Law School students (one of them Episcopal!) who believed that placing young people into teaching and mentoring roles within inner city schools could make a huge difference in impacting American culture. This year seventy young men and women have offered up a year of their life to serve at the following inner city schools in eight Manchester elementary schools: Bakersville, Beech Street, Gossler Park, Henry Wilson, McDonough, Parker-Varney, Hallsville, and Northwest Elementary.

We welcome this year to Grace House the following young women:

- + Blair Chandler, graduate of Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Shawnee, Kansas
- + Ella Howland, graduate of Kearsarge High School; Sutton, New Hampshire
- + Courtney Millette from Jaffrey, New Hampshire
- + Marisa Milone, graduate of University of New Hampshire; Sandown, New Hampshire
- + Bianca Nelson, graduate of Conrad Weiser High School; Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania
- + Bindi Parikh, graduate of Rutgers University; Totowa, New Jersey

Grace Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector

Vestry

Linda Heath, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Richard Feren, Assistant Treasurer
Ann Hewins, Warden
Ed High, Treasurer

Gail Austin, Steven Botana-Gumbs, Jason Carignan, Lauren Cline,
James Higgins, Linda Lassonde, Miclena Linares,
Eileen Suckley, 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
September 15, 2016

MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to the following September birthday celebrants!

3	Andrew Cline		
4	Mark Anderson	18	Karen Grant
5	Alycia Miner	20	Jill Porter
6	James Everett	21	Olivia Phipps
8	Doug Chamberlain	24	Caleb Richmond
	Sally Douglass	25	Hobart Rand
	Andrew Fox		Barbara Hermann
		27	Sue Critz
9	Hannah Richmond	28	Sandi Albom
13	Kaitlin Taylor	30	Rob Fox
14	Bruce Thomas		Genevieve Turner
	Joan Holleran		
	Isaac Gioseffi		

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.

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:

Alyssa Katherine Thompson – July 24, 2016

Reception:

Martha Desaulniers - August 9, 2016

Funeral:

Robert Albert Chabot – June 27, 2016

ATTENTION – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

***Regular Sunday service will resume on Sunday September 11 – Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:30 am;
 Church School 10:15 am***

***Regular Office hours will resume September 13
 –Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.***

Three of our tenants are recent high school graduates, while the remaining three are recent college graduates. All six young women will be living right next door to our church at Grace House, the yellow house that sits on our parish campus.

Special thanks to our Property Committee, led by Bruce Thomas, that worked hard this past summer to spruce up the interior of Grace House and ready our three floor house for this newest crop of City Year members. Kudos to warden Ann Hewins who managed innumerable tours through Grace House of potential tenants and their families, then helped settle new tenants into their living quarters. Finally, special thanks to warden Linda Heath who managed the application process and assisted Ann Hewins in settling these six young women into their new home.

If you're interested in bringing over a home cooked meal, take out, or providing some other treat or New Hampshire experience (a trip, a meal at your home, baked goods) to our City Year tenants, please contact Linda Heath, Ann Hewins, or Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro.

Blessings and love, Marjorie +

Book discussion ~ Sunday October 2 at 9:15 ~ Library

Anyone interested in reading Henri Nouwen's *A Spirituality of Living* should contact the church office to have a copy reserved. This delightful little book explains how time spent in solitude and time spent in community is necessary to prepare each of us for the ministry that God has in store for us. This dense book is only 56 pages long and invites slow, thoughtful reading. We hope you will take time to join us for the book discussion, even if you do not have the opportunity to read the book in advance. October 2 is the last Sunday of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign. Reading *A Spirituality of Living* will serve as a meaningful complement to listening to members of our congregation as they speak to us about how their lives outside Grace Church reflect their lives inside Grace Church. Please plan to join us.

CHIMES FOR OUR CHILDREN

An update for the Parish, Parents, and Young Chimers

The news is good! Though our appeal has been running through the warm summer months when our thoughts turn more to swimming, outdoor sports, and vacationing, there are sufficient funds pledged to get us very near our goal of purchasing three octaves of Suzuki ToneChimes. On the strength of that good news, I'm pleased to report that our basic set has been ordered and should be on its way from California to Grace Church any day.

Parents of Sunday Schoolers who are interested should plan on attending a brief meeting and hands-on demonstration in the Library shortly after Coffee Hour begins on Sunday, September 11. At that time, we'll have a chance to get to know each other, talk about a few basic rules to help our group run smoothly, and give the children (adults, too, if they wish) a chance to hold a chime and ring it. My guess is that we can begin making music together in just a few minutes.

Beginning Sunday, September 18, and following the schedule of regular Sunday School dates, I will move from the organ to the downstairs at about 10:45 for a brief 10-15 minute rehearsal with the children.

For the third Sunday of the month when the children are in church with us, I will ask the parents to have them arrive at 10:00 am for a brief warm-up rehearsal in the church for our song of the morning. The children will then chime during the Offertory. **The Sunday for our "debut" will be October 16th.** On that day we will also recognize those who made gifts to purchase the chime set and have a blessing of these new instruments. After hearing the children make their musical contribution to worship, others may be moved to make further contributions which could enable us to purchase more notes. It is never too late to contribute.

Apart from Third Sundays, a future possibility for the group may include chiming a song or two during the Prelude Music before our 175th Anniversary Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoon, November 6. Music will begin at 3:30, the Service at 4:00, and a reception will follow in the Great Hall. The 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve for Children and Families will be another wonderful opportunity for participation and other ideas and opportunities will surely come forward.

Shall we give this group a special name? There are lots of ideas, I'm

17th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

International Ataxia Awareness Day is an outreach of ataxia organizations around the world to get the word out about ataxia. The ATAXIA's are rare, progressive disorders of the nervous system affecting balance and coordination. People of all ages and races are affected.

Ken and I didn't know about ataxia, or its effects, until Ken was diagnosed with inherited ataxia in 2009. His life has been impacted by symptoms that include problems with balance, fine motor coordination, and speech. He began walking with a cane, then with a walker and now is in a wheel chair, unless someone oversees him while using his walker. He has Physical, Speech and Occupational therapies at home to assist with maintaining his abilities and an aide for personal care. Fortunately, it has not affected his appetite. Rest assured he still enjoys chocolate cake and ice cream.

Many of you have helped the Ataxia Foundation by participating in the Macy's Shop for a Cause event this year and in the past. Another way to help the Ataxia Foundation and fight for a cure for ataxia is to support the 17th Annual IAAD, September 25, 2016. As part of IAAD Walk N Roll events are being held throughout the country. Ken and I are participating in the New England Walk N Roll Event on September 10th and would greatly appreciate your financial support. Our goal is to raise \$2000.00.

You may contribute online via our personal page at: <http://ataxia.donorpages.com/WalknRoll2016NewEnglandWnR/JillPorter2015>

You may contact me at: jillporter@comcast.net if you would like the link sent to you. Or you may send us or give us a donation by check made payable to the National Ataxia Foundation. Cash donations will be combined and sent in one check. No amount is too small to help this great cause.

At this time, there is no effective treatment or cure for ataxia. It can affect anyone at any time. The National Ataxia Foundation continues its efforts in helping ataxia families through research, education, and patient services. Raising awareness helps all of these efforts and raises hope and that means hope for future generations, especially our sons and our grandchildren. To all of our church family who have already contributed financially to the 2016 Walk n Roll our heartfelt thanks. We also thank you for caring so much about this journey we are on and your continued prayers.

Jill & Ken Porter

A Note of Gratitude...

My dear friends in Christ,

I have so much appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for all the love and care you nurtured and supported me with during my days at Grace Episcopal Church. Your prayers and presence in both my formation process and diaconal journey carried me during times of doubt and confusion as well as times of great joy.

My humble thanks also for all the financial support you blessed me with during my three years of study with the Massachusetts Diaconal Formation program. I could not have possibly done this without your generosity and faith in my intended journey into Christ. Thank you to all who took the time to be with me on my Ordination



Day and to those who were with me in prayer. It was a profound experience I will never forget. With God's help I will live into the servant Christ ministry I am called to in ways that will bring about a more peace-filled world.

Then, huge thank-you for the beautiful white stole you presented me with as an Ordination gift. I will wear it often with pride for it expresses to me the love for liturgy and God's people that fills the sanctuary of Grace Episcopal, Manchester.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis

PRAYER

Is this not the time for the People
of the Book
To join in public discourse
About what it means to be a child
of God –
And to respect the dignity
Of all human beings
And the sacredness of God's crea-
tion?
Surely there are more than three
points of agreement
The Abrahamic faiths all share.
Isis is not Islam,
The Ku Klux Klan is not Christian-
ity.
O God, who lives among us
And beyond time and space,
Grant us grace to seek and speak
The truths that lead us to the path
of peace.

-- Julia DiStefano (10 June 2016)



sure, but "The St. Michael's Chapel Chimers" has a nice ring to it.

With gratitude and Yours in Christ's Fellowship,
Ken Grinnell

+++++
Please accept my gift for Chimes for Our Children

Name _____

Gift amount \$ _____ Phone _____

In memory/honor of _____

(Please clip this coupon with your gift and put in the offering plate or send to the Church Office as soon as convenient.)

+++++

Please Support 'Blessings, Inc.'

Lifelong Grace Episcopal Church parishioner Tom Suckley loves a good deed. He also has a passion for refinishing and repurposing old furniture and other household items. Tom has combined the two into a new "business," Blessings, Inc.

As Tom finds items at yard sales or left on the roadside, he picks them up, restores them, and makes them available to family, friends, and others. "When a renewed and restored item is delivered to a happy customer, Tom is dancing on air," says his mom, Eileen. "The only price: one good deed to be done in the next thirty days."

Keep an eye on Facebook or inquire with Tom or Eileen for his most recent projects. Accepting an item is tripling-down on good deeds – you'll make Tom happy, you'll get to enjoy a lovingly restored item, and you'll get to pay this ministry forward by doing a good deed of your own!



COST OF FLOWER DONATIONS GOES UP

When I was a child growing up in a small parish on Long Island every week I attended a children's chapel service. I remember sitting in our parish's tiny chapel, repeating the following sentences, a trinity of wisdom, with my sister and two brothers: "What does the cross say? God loves us. What do the flowers say? We love God. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.' "

Many of us give flowers for our altar to say, "We love you" to God. We also give the gift of flowers on our altar, with a bulletin announcement alongside, to show who we love - a child celebrating a birthday, a spouse as we mark a wedding anniversary, or a loved one who has died and is now enfolded in the arms of his or her Creator.

The past several years at Grace Episcopal we have asked for a donation of \$25 to mark a thanksgiving, birthday, anniversary, memorial, or celebration and help defray the cost of our altar flowers. However, week after week we have paid \$50 for the beautiful arrangements you see on our altar. The result is that on weeks when we do not have two or more families giving a contribution, our parish have been losing money.

We recently learned that Chalifour's, a local florist here in Manchester run by a faithful Roman Catholic family, discounts any flowers given to God and placed on the altar. A bouquet that normally costs \$50 only costs \$30 if used in the context of worship. The result of this finding is (1) We have changed our florist from Celeste's to Chalifour's to save on costs AND (2) we will now be raising our fee for weekly altar flowers from \$25 to \$30.

If you would like to show your love for God and the gift of family, friends, or loved ones on a specific Sunday over the course of the year, please contact Assistant Parish Administrator Lyn Marino at ciaomarinno2@gmail.com

Marjorie +



observation to notice that people with certain zodiac signs were better at some tasks, and people with other zodiac signs were better at other tasks.

It is also well known that people good at one particular task have a propensity for other similar or related tasks. So, I think it is safe to say that predicting something about a person based on their zodiac sign might actually have some credibility.

Dick Feren

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH Book Group 2016 - 2017

Come one, come all! The Grace Church Book Group invites you to join us for one or all of our monthly pot luck discussions groups. We meet at 12:00 on the third Tuesday of each month in the Church Library.



Whether you like books, a good meal, or fellowship, you are welcome to join our gatherings.

Our book for September 20 is *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. This novel is described

as a book that reminds us all exactly why we read and why we love. If you don't have time to read *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, or you need to come late; feel free to join us anyway.

Our reads for the upcoming months are:

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 - *Imagine Me Gone*, by Adam Haslett

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – *Lament For A Son*, by Nicholas Wolterstoff

No meeting in December

For more information or questions, contact Ann ORourke at annorourke1@yahoo.com or 808-268-1071



Do you know your horoscope?

Depending on whom you ask, a horoscope could be important, or it could be meaningless. In either case, it might be helpful to understand how it could be perceived as valuable. Let's consider student athletes and how their performance relates to signs of the zodiac.

A child's birth date determines when they can enter kindergarten or first grade. As it stands now in Manchester, a child must be 5 yrs old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten, or 6 yrs old on or before September 1 to enter 1st grade. Let's consider Oscar (born in October of 2009) and Albert (born in August of 2010) who will both start kindergarten in September of 2015. For the rest of their elementary school years, Oscar will be almost one year older than Albert.

When children are young, a one-year difference in age can make a big difference in their athletic abilities. This difference will continue through elementary school, and for many could affect their athletic performance for the rest of their lives. In fact, recent research has shown that a much higher percentage of super-athletes were born in Sep – Dec than in May – Aug.

Relating their birth dates to signs of the Zodiac, Oscar would be a Libra or Scorpio; Albert would be a Leo or Virgo. A psychic could look at a child's birth date, label it with the appropriate zodiac sign, and say something like "Oscar is a Scorpio, so he will excel in sports." Chances are that Oscar will excel in sports and, I suppose, someone could say it would be because of his sign.

Horoscopes have been around for a long time; certainly before we had elementary school and student athletes, but the logic still applies to other types of occupations, including hunting, farming, cooking, etc. How these tasks were performed could vary with the seasons, so the age of a child when they first performed the task could make a difference in how good they got at it. Once that was established, it would only take a few centuries of

The Purpose of Pledging

Every year, Grace Episcopal Church parishioners are asked to make a pledge – the amount of money they are able and willing to give to support the church. This money is used to help pay for everything from salaries and office supplies to building maintenance and our many ministries. The pledges that are made help set the annual budget and, thus, reasonable expectations of what we can accomplish in a year.

The good news is that, for 2016, Grace parishioners have pledged more than \$250,000. This amount supports more than half of the annual budget and, for the year-to-date through the end of July, 96 percent of pledges have been paid! Thanks to everyone who has been diligent in spite of vacations and mornings spent sleeping in.

Because we rely so heavily on accurate and reasonable pledges to set our budget, it's extremely important that pledge payments are honored and stay up to date. Even though the YTD payments are at 96 percent, the amount unpaid adds up to four thousand dollars – roughly the amount to cover fellowship and church school activities for the year.

When considering your pledge to Grace, think about what you can manage. If you skipped the Dunks run three times a week, could you comfortably pledge \$500? That would be enough to support outreach and service ministries for the year. The chart below outlines how a yearly pledge breaks down per month and per week. We appreciate any and all pledges and always ask that you give what's reasonable for *you*.

Pledge Ranges for 2016						
Yearly Range	< \$500	\$500 – \$999	\$1000 – \$1999	\$2000 – \$2999	\$3000 – \$4999	\$5000 or more
Monthly Range	\$4 – \$42	\$42 – \$83	\$83 – \$166	\$167 – \$249	\$250 – \$416	\$417 or more
Weekly Range	\$1 – \$10	\$10 – \$19	\$19 – \$38	\$38 – \$57	\$58 – \$95	\$96 or more
# of Pledge Units	7	17	27	12	6	9

GRACE CHURCH KNITTING GROUP THANKED ~ FALL RETREAT

We received a lovely letter this summer from Operation Gratitude we wanted to share:

July 21, 2016

Dear Linda Chamberlain and the Grace Episcopal Church Knitters and Crocheters

On behalf of Operation Gratitude and the heroes who receive our care packages, I thank you for your generous donation of 27 handmade scarves. Your contribution will enable us to send over \$200,000 'chock full' Care Packages this year to the tens of thousands of brave men and women still deployed overseas in harsh and remote areas; to their children anxiously awaiting their return; and to Veterans, New Recruits, First Responders, Wounded Heroes, and their Care givers. With the help of caring Americans like you, since our inception in 2003, we have sent more than 1.5 Million Operation Gratitude Care Packages containing snacks, hygiene products, entertainment and hand-made items, and personal letters of appreciation.

As one former Navy Sailor and current NY Police Department Officer recently wrote: "Every book, every piece of paper, every cloth, every book, every pencil, every notebook, every brush, every toothpaste, every shower gel, every magazine, every letter, every piece of candy . . . means a lot to us when we are away from home. It gives us hope, confidence, happiness strength, and pride that somebody thinks about us, that someone is there for us. Thank you all. God bless America."

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. The recipients of your generosity will remember your kindness forever. And I will always be appreciative of your support and encouragement for Operation Gratitude.

Fondly,
Carolyn Blashek, President

If you are a knitter, crocheter, or someone who loves to craft in the midst of a triple threat - a group of caring, compassionate, chatty people - come and join parish group of fiber artists the fourth Monday of every month from 7 to 9 PM. (Our next gathering is Monday, September 26th, 2016.) Also, please consider joining our all day Fiber Artist Retreat on Saturday, October 22nd, 2016 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Lunch, drinks, and snacks will be provided

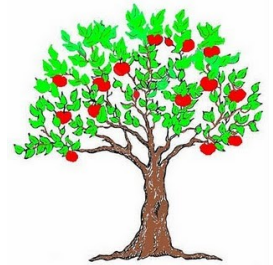
A. September 10th, 9 am-12 pm , St. James Episcopal Church , Keene

B. October 6th, 6pm-9pm, Grace Episcopal Church, Manchester
Please register on line, www.nhepiscopal.org and follow the link to safe church.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer by Rev. Marjorie at 8:40 pm. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. Vestry members are instructed to read Chapter 3 of "God's Grace & Robert's Rules" prior to the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda C. Lassonde, secretary temp.



The Apple Country Craft Fair

will be held on **Saturday Sept 10 & Sunday Sept 11** at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Londonderry, corner of Route 128 (Mammoth Road) and Peabody Row.

50+ juried crafters from all over New England will display their handmade artwork including pottery, glass work, hand painted wood, specialty foods, handmade jewelry, textiles and much more. St. Peter's Bistro will host homemade baked goods, coffee, a grill with hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage sandwiches and wraps.

What better way to enjoy the last days of summer than stroll through the Apple Country Craft Fair.

break even.

A signed thank you card will be sent to Celeste for her past contribution to our altar flower displays.

CITY YEAR- Ann reported that the property committee and several volunteers worked hard to clean and repair Grace house. We now have 6 new tenants, all female, 3 of which are college graduates and 3 of which are high school graduates, all with involved families. Ann and Linda H. are providing oversight to our tenants. More frequent walk-throughs of the common areas will occur with 24 hour notice (this is reflected in the written rental agreements). In addition, there will be 3 inservices for tenants in September addressing budgeting, housecleaning, and interpersonal communication.

BELL TOWER- Marjorie explained that Paula Balboni left a bequest to Grace church. Family members designated this bequest for the purchase of a new bell. The bell was purchased from this bequest along with funds from 2 other donors. Brent Stagnaro and Linda Heath traveled to Tennessee to bring the bell home to Grace. A permit has been obtained and plans are in place for installation mid-September.

BEQUEST OF CAR-Richard Gesner has bequested his 2007 Buick LaCrosse. The Blue Book values for the car were compared and range between \$7,000-\$11,000 range. There are only 22,000 miles on the odometer. Linda Heath has recently brought the car to a local Buick dealership, it was assessed to be in excel-

lent condition, and paperwork has been provided by the dealership to reflect the condition of the car. The condition of the sale will be "as is". Currently there are 3 families interested in purchasing the vehicle. All \$ collected from the sale of the car will benefit the church and used for church expenses to be determined by the Vestry at a later date.

VOTE: a motion was made by Lauren for a minimum asking price of \$8500.00 and seconded by Steve. Bids will be submitted by interested parishioners in sealed envelopes to Marlene by August 31st. If the bids are unsatisfactory, then the vehicle will be taken to Car Max by Kevin for possible sale.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING-Safe church training is a requirement for those working with children, doing home visits (lay II ministers), and those in leadership positions in the church. Ellen Zimmerman has been the most recent safe church coordinator for Grace, but she is now in Florida most weeks. Gail Austin has volunteered to take on this position.

There are 2 scheduled Safe Church Training session scheduled in the next few weeks. Completion of online training is required in order to attend the sessions.

Come Unlock the Bible

Each Wednesday at 11:00AM, a small group of parishioners meet in the Grace Episcopal Church library for fellowship and bible study. Our particular study is structured using the book *Unlocking the Bible*; author David Pawson's overview of the whole Bible.

Since God speaks in sacred Scripture through ordinary people in human fashion, the interpreter of Scripture, in order to see more clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words. Mr. Pawson's video presentations and insights into the cultural, historical background, and spiritual significance of all the important events in sacred Scripture are carefully examined and offered to his audience in a clear and informative framework. His interpretations are proposed and expressed in a variety of ways, making the study relevant and enjoyable to persons at all levels of Scripture study.

Our small open group meets to share the results of prayer and reflection on Scripture and suggested readings. Our goal is for group members to be strengthened and nourished individually and as a community through sharing how God's Word speaks to us and affects our daily lives. The emphasis of our weekly study rests on trust in God's presence working in and through each member, and the hope that He can bring about personal growth and transformation.

Our facilitator, Sue Gordon, is a remarkable woman of faith and purpose and guides our sessions in a most pleasant and agreeable way. Other members of our group include Nancy Johnson, Julia DiStefano, Jill Porter, Ken Grinnell, Barbara Hermann, Mickey Linares, Eric Gagnon, Danni Leonard, Rick Gordon, Ernie and Lyn Marino, and the Rev. Marjorie when it fits into her busy schedule. Although our Bible Study has been underway for several months, new members are always welcome to attend ... we hope you'll join us.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,
Greg Desaulniers

**VESTRY MEETING
Wednesday, August 17, 2016**

Present: Steven Botana-Gumbs, Linda Heath, Lauren Cline, Ann Hewins, James Higgins, Linda Lassonde, Eileen Suckley, Gail Austin, Kevin Von Braun, Jason Carignan, Edward High, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro.

Excused: Nancy Johnson, Richard Feren, Mickey Linares

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

The Vestry members present signed a thank you card to Celeste Flower Barn in appreciation of the beautiful arrangements that Celeste has prepared for our parish in the past.

VOTE: A motion to accept Linda L. as secretary temp. in Nancy Johnson's absence tonight was made by Linda H. and seconded by Ed and was carried.

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

Marjorie reminded the Vestry that she will be away in NY from Friday, August 19 through Monday, August 22 to preside over a wedding.. The Rev. Allan Knight will preside over the 9 AM service on Sunday, August 21 while Marjorie is away.

VOTE: A motion to accept the Rector's Report was made by Linda H,

seconded by James and was carried.

Ed High presented the financial reports for June and July. He reported the pledge payments are low this summer. In June, the current deficit was \$39,600 under, which was more than anticipated.

He reported that page 2 of the budget reflects some repairs done at Grace House (dryer, electrical). However, \$500.00 of rent received from the Farr family in July has been applied to Grace House maintenance. In July, the deficit was \$46,800, which was \$4000.00 more than budgeted. July was also a weak month for Sunday pledges.

VOTE: A motion was made by Linda L. to accept the June financial report, seconded by Kevin and carried.

VOTE: A motion to accept the July financial report was made by Kevin, seconded by Jason, and carried.

Property Committee did not meet this month. However, we are informed by Marjorie that the Committee is currently working on obtaining estimates for the painting of the front of Grace House.

DISCUSSION OF AUDIT VS. REVIEW: Ed H. discovered that

Grace Church has never had a full audit as previously thought, but we have always had reviews. At the previous Vestry meeting in June, we were under the impression that a full audit was last done just prior to Marjorie's arrival here at Grace.

Ed and Dick spoke with the financial officer of the diocese and they were told we do not need a full audit, but a review would be accepted. An outside review (Plodzick & Sanderson) will cost approximately \$3500.00, an audit will cost approximately \$10,000.00. An inside review by parishioner Rick Maloney has been done as a 2nd "watchdog" review routinely, and an outside review was done 5 years ago.

Jason asked if we would recoup any funds from fair share relief if a full audit is done. Ann doesn't believe so. She stated that an extended Fair Share discussion is to take place in September.

Gail spoke that the advantages of a full audit are that of more in depth, quality, reliable statements and picture of our financial status. She reminded up that we are close to the annual budget of \$400,000.00 and this generally requires a full audit periodically.

Ed expresses concerns about the extra cost, proposes a line item in the budget for a future audit, and states his preference for a review this year, with a full audit in year 2020. Additional funding for this is also of concern to Linda H.

James prefers to see an audit done this year in the interest of fiduciary responsibility to the Parish. Eileen agrees that this is prudent. Of concern to most present is the fact that a full audit has never been done.

VOTE: A motion was made by Jason to reconsider the Vestry's prior June vote (audit), and this was seconded by Ed. Members voted, and the majority vote was for a full audit.

ALTAR FLOWERS- Marjorie reported that we have been using Celeste's Flower Barn in Manchester for our altar flowers. The cost of flowers has increased to \$55.00 from a previous \$50.00 fee. When Celeste's shut down for 2 weeks this summer, we purchased altar flowers from Chalifour's. It was discovered that Chalifour's discounts altar flowers to \$30.00 (from a charge of \$50.00) as long as the flower arrangement is placed on the altar (business is run by Catholic family and discount due to their beliefs). Jill Porter was also able to negotiate with Chalifour's to waive the \$5.00 delivery fee. At this time, our altar flowers will now be supplied by Chalifours. In the past, a \$25.00 donation was asked when flowers were requested, and we have been taking a loss of approximately \$25.00 per week. With the new cost to the church of \$30.00, we will be asking for a \$30.00 donation in the future to