

Grace Notes

Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101-1625
www.gracechurchmanchester.org
December, 2016/January, 2017

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Grace Notes

*December 2016-
January 2017*

Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH

*Celebrate Christmas at
Grace Episcopal Church*

Sunday, December 18th
Christmas Lessons & Carols, 4:00 pm

December 24th – Christmas Eve
Children's Service, 4:00 pm

Christmas Hymns and Choral Anthems, 7:30 pm
Festival Choral Service with Holy Eucharist, 8:00 pm
The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, preaching

Silent Night: A Quiet Christmas Eve Service, 11:00 pm
(With incense and sung Eucharist)
The Rev. Allan Knight, preaching

December 25th – Christmas Day
ONE SERVICE—Holy Eucharist, 9:00 am
The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, preaching

January 1st – New Year's Day
ONE SERVICE—Holy Eucharist, 9:00 am
The Rev. Richard Matthews, preaching



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, Miclina 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

January 15, 2017

MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to the following December and January birthday celebrants!

<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>	
3	Castie Bailey	1	John Yen
	Livvie Dufresne		Rebeka Beek
4	Carole Blenkinsop	2	Charles Rousseau
	Justin Posnanski		Anne Milne
	Ann ORourke	3	Carolyn Richmond
5	Cheryl Thomas	4	Steven Botana-Gumbs
	Kevin Marshall	10	Lydia Adams
9	Mary Sargent	12	Patrick Gillick
10	Ryan Douglas	14	Leona Thomas
	Charlie Woodbury		
		16	Caroline Wyatt
11	Caroline Stenbeck	18	Ken Porter
		19	Kristina Johnson
			Kaydance Lassonde
		20	Ulla Damon
		23	Sue Gordon
13	Bernie Tonnar	24	Betty Arel
14	Miclana Linares		Brooks Stantial
		25	Hank Gagnon
	Gray Chynoweth	27	Linda Jacobson
		28	Mary Blevens
15	Nancy Stantial	29	Nancy-Ann Feren
16	Michelle Garneau		Charles White
21	Kathie-Ann Day	30	Melissa Roy
	Nancy Girgus		James Fox
23	Liz Jestude		
25	Kelly Farragher-Paras		
26	Destiny Lee		
27	Carol Cote		

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: Marie Isabel Sisson, Nov. 13, 2016

Lessons and Carols—Sunday, December 18th, 4:00 pm

Eight lessons read by eight readers from different areas of life in our parish, six anthems including the *Sussex Carol* and *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, prayers led by our rector, all framed by an organ prelude and postlude and followed by a reception in the Great Hall. What's not to like?

Exciting news: traditionally the Choir has voted on the recipient of the offering received at the service and is pleased to announce that this year's choice is Grace Church's own successful **Laundry Love** program.

Please plan to join us and invite friends and families for a lovely hour bridging the Advent and Christmas seasons. Take a poster or two from the table in the back of the church and hang them in your neighborhood or workplace to spread the word!

ST. MICHAEL'S CHILDREN'S CHIMERS

The children have successfully chimed for services in October and November as well as for the 175th Anniversary Choral Evensong Sacred Concert. Thank you to the parents for encouraging your children to participate, for having them at church on time for warm-ups, and in many cases literally participating "hands-on." It is most gratifying to see this new ministry enjoy such a strong and successful beginning!

Here are a few dates to remember, as we look ahead:

Dec. 4, 11, and 18: rehearsals during Sunday school.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 3:00 pm warm-up, chime for 4:00 pm service.

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, no rehearsals.

Jan. 8, rehearsal.

January 15, warm-up at 10:00 am. For 10:30 service – Bishop Rob visiting.

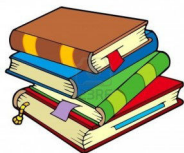
January 22, no rehearsal. (One service at 9:00 am - Annual Meeting.)

January 29, rehearsal.

During December we will be preparing "Away in a Manger" for the 4:00 pm Service on Christmas Eve. (Parents – please remember that the children should be ready for their warm-up at 3:00 pm.) Ken Grinnell

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a book drive to benefit Beech St. School. The school would like to give each child a book on their birthday. Books which are new or gently used (no writing, no yellowed pages) are needed. They should be suitable for five to twelve year olds. There will be a box in the back of the church for collecting donations during the month of January



GRACE KNITTING RETREAT

The knitters at Grace Church sponsored their 5th retreat in the Great Hall on **Saturday, October 22nd**. It was the most successful yet!! A total of 25 crafters - knitters, crocheters, hand quilters and even a jewelry maker - came together from 9am to 3pm to make the day special.

Karen West, a former parishioner at Grace, is the workhorse behind this fabulous outreach event, and everyone contributes either soup for lunch or finger food for the morning and throughout the day. We learned during introductions that people had seen the announcements in the Hippo and in different libraries, and of course, churches in the area. Attendees came from Manchester, Bedford, Londonderry, Nashua, Merrimack and from different churches - or no church.

Everyone left with a souvenir Grace Church 175th Anniversary bracelet and the announcement of Evensong for November 6th. It was a marvelous day with a lot of laughter and sharing, a brief contemplative knitting time, and a wonderful feeling of welcome from Grace Church.

This year (2016), we gave each other cards for Halloween that weren't identical, but they were both humorous and gave the same message. We do think alike.

So, what is a marriage? What does it mean to you?

Dick Feren

Grace Episcopal Church Book Group

The last 2016 book group meeting will at 12:00 on Tuesday, November 15 in the Grace Church Library. At this meeting, we will be discussing Lament For A Son by the well-known Christian philosopher, Nicholas Wolterstoff.



Our 2017 schedule is:

Tue, January 17, 2017 – A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman

Tue, February 21, 2017 – Travels With Charley by John Steinbeck

Tue, March 21, 2017- Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed: The Story of the Village of Le Chambon and How Goodness Happened There by Philip Hallie

Tue, April 18, 2017 - Animal Farm by George Orwell

Tue, May 16, 2017- The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean

Tue, June 20, 2017- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

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

Reflections AND THOUGHTS

What is a marriage?

The word marriage can have different meanings depending on the context. Metallurgists refer to the combination of copper and iron to make bronze as a marriage. When the two halves of a prefabricated house are joined together, the workers say that the parts have been married. In both of these examples, the word marriage implies that something new and different has resulted that has properties and strengths not present in either of the original parts by itself. Can't the same be true of two people?

When the two parts are put together to make the marriage, each part contributes something to make the union stronger. In the case of a marriage of two people, how much should each contribute? Some say that marriage is 50/50, implying that each contributes half of the team work. Others say that marriage is 100/100, implying that each needs to do their utmost to make the marriage work. Maybe it is neither 50/50 nor 100/100 but some other combination where one seems to be giving more. What is really important is whether it works.

A lot of people are very upset about what they perceive to be an attack on traditional marriage. They say that if it is not a "traditional" marriage, then it shouldn't be recognized by the church, or by the state, or by society. So, what do they mean by "traditional"? Do they mean the tradition when wives of rulers were kept in a harem, which was essentially a slave pen? Do they want the tradition where the wife was essentially owned by her husband? I hope not. I also hope that people think marriage is a good thing if the result is two happy people, even if it is not "traditional."

Married people can even begin to think alike. Let me give holiday cards as an example. For some holidays (Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas), Nancy-Ann and I buy cards for each other. For Halloween of 2015, we gave each other identical cards. That was particularly interesting because I had bought the one for her over a year before. On Thanksgiving morning, we opened our cards, and once again they were identical.

IMPORTANT NOTICES FROM THE OFFICE

In order to ease up on the stress that occurs around the holidays, we are once again combining the DECEMBER and JANUARY newsletters. We are mindful of elections and will publish the slate of officers with voting instructions in a blast e-mail to the congregation as well as any other important information that may surface. Our weekly Sunday leaflets, as usual, will also reflect important information. The deadline for the February newsletter will be **January 15**. Please try to get your articles in by that time as it makes it very difficult to format when last minute items have to be included. Thank you.

ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH
January 22, 2017
FOLLOWING THE 9:00 SERVICE.
(Please note there will be only one service!)

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



The office will be closed Monday December 26th and will reopen on Wednesday January 4. Sunday School will resume on January 8.

GRACE CHURCH SOUP-A-THON

There is nothing better than a great soup in the middle of winter. We will be holding Grace Church Annual Soup-A-Thon on **Thursday, January 19th at 6:00**. Please sign up on the kiosk to enter a soup, or bringing bread or dessert. An event for all – we need soup chefs, soup tasters and judges. This will be a can't miss event! If you have any questions please reach out to Karen Furtado at k2furtado@gmail.com or 978.239.2741.

VESTRY MEETING
Wednesday, November 16,
2016

Present: Gail Austin, Jason Carignan, Lauren Cline, Richard Feren, Steven Botana-Gumbs, Linda Heath, Ann Hewins, James Higgins, Edward High, Linda Lassonde, Mickey Linares, Nancy Johnson

Absent (excused): the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Kevin Von Braun, Eileen Suckley

The meeting was opened in prayer by Ann at 7:00. We then proceeded with the reading of the Norms. Kevin came in to inform the Vestry that he would be getting married and moving to Texas. The Vestry wished him the best.

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

VOTE: The vestry reviewed the most recently submitted Rector's Report; Ed pointed out that the dates after October 30th through November 11th were incorrect. The Vestry would like Rev. Marjorie to report only the items that are directly related to the job. A motion to accept the Rector's Report as appended was made by Jim, seconded by Steve and was carried.

The financial report for September was presented by Ed. He reported that we had now entered the season of giving and had made up some ground. Our deficit in August was around \$19,000 and in September was around \$14,000. He said that he would have the proposed budget for 2017 ready for the Vestry to review by December 1st. We were requested to look over the budget line by line and see how we could come closer to balancing our budget. We discussed how we would like to have a major fund raising event and have more parish involvement.

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

Traditionally the staff has been a Christmas bonus of \$50 each. We discussed where the money for the gifts would come from. After discussion the following motion evolved.

VOTE: A motion to have the Vestry members contribute money toward the staff Christmas bonuses was made by Lauren and seconded by Jim and was carried.

We reviewed the proposal to upgrade the Wi-Fi system that Brian Guimond had prepared. After discussion it was determined that we should first contact Comcast (our provider) before we make any decisions about the proposed upgrade.

VOTE: A motion to call Comcast to check that we have the most current equipment and to see what they will do before we approve the recommendations made by Brian was made by Jason and seconded by Steve and was carried.

Ann led a discussion from chapter three of the booklet titled "God's Grace & Roberts's Rules – A Theological Primer for Vestry Members". The book defines 3 types of parishes – those who spend too little attention/money/time on building upkeep, those who spend too much and those that are "just right". We have had to spend a great deal of money the past couple of years because we had been a church that spent too little and now had to fix what had been neglected. We assumed that that meant that we were now just right. We noted that there were problem areas that needed attention such as the leading on the library windows. Our property committee is dedicated to seeing what needs to be done now – sooner – later. The committee is composed of very professional and capable people. We discussed some groups that could possibly help us – NH Preservation Alliance (we could perhaps have them come and meet with the Property Committee and Vestry). We also should research Community Development Grants.

The Vestry felt that the 175th celebration was very good. The music, service, and reception were all great. We had a good attendance –

many not from our church. We wished that the sermon had more in it that was celebrating our history.

We discussed the problem of an individual who is mentally ill who has come to the 10:30 service and has approached individuals and has wandered in the church. The ushers were good in trying to contain him. Our first line of defense is our usher team. If they need backup it is up to us and they must make the call if police intervention is necessary. We discussed the danger of children wandering the church by themselves. When the children are in Sunday school (or Nursery) the doors are locked and the children are escorted to the bathrooms. Linda will talk to the parents to stress the danger of having the children be on their own (unsupervised) and wandering the church especially when the service is going on.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer 8:35 PM. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Respectfully submitted Nancy Johnson, Clerk

Don't forget to keep an eye on your email for important information regarding the Annual Meeting!

