



GRACE NOTES

FEBRUARY 2019

Our Mission Statement:

To know Christ & make Christ known

Grace Episcopal Church

106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH





Illustration by Andrew Freshour

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From the Rector

Dearest Grace Church Family,

One of the many blessings of my previous call was participating in a homeless ministry called Grate Patrol. The program, which ran 365 days a year and was both invented and supervised by the Salvation Army, provided a van and driver. Area churches and schools provided food and volunteers, then traveled to the various subway stops of downtown Washington DC to feed the homeless. Heat traveled up from subway grates, hence the name "Grate Patrol", making it very easy for us locate those in need.

Twice a month, children and parents from Saint Patrick's Episcopal Day School provided clothing, food, and love to those on the street. New volunteers always were surprised to discover how polite and respectful their homeless neighbors were. Down and out friends waited patiently for food, smiled when they were handed hot soup and cookies, and repeatedly told us how much our work mattered.

Recently our parish has experienced an increasing lack of respect from our transient and homeless neighbors. Beginning this past summer there has been an uptick of abandoned trash, uneaten food, and drug needles left outside our church. Regularly we witness people using our courtyard as a restroom. More and more congregants voice how they don't feel safe coming to our campus at night. And often when staff leave the parish office, we use the back door as it is clearly a safer path to exit.

Friends, there is a delicate balance between being of use and being used. As we begin a New Year it is clear our parish wants to be of use - providing Christmas gifts to inner city children, helping those in need at New Horizons, Laundry Love, providing space for a once a month luncheon program that last month fed 140 people. At the same time, we refuse to be used and abused.

Because our Vestry wants Grace to be a place that feels safe for all people your leadership has created the following parameters regarding evening visitors to our campus. Please know we truly believe helping those in need and keeping our parish campus safe are equal priorities at Grace Episcopal Church.

Blessings and love,
Marjorie xo+

From your Vestry

January 2019

Dear Grace Church Family,

We, your leadership, recognize that we have dual priorities: to reflect the love of Christ to our neighbors as well as insure the safety of our staff and parishioners. We find ourselves in the position of having to establish clear boundaries and priorities regarding our parish campus. This past summer we saw a marked increase in the presence of both homeless and transient individuals here at our church. In addition to consulting with the Manchester Police, we have spoken with church colleagues at several neighboring parishes. As a result of these deliberations, we believe we need to hold to the following standards:

1. Our parish campus hours of operation will be from 7 am to 7 pm. During these hours our benches may be used by our parish neighbors. However, we cannot offer our church lavatories as public restrooms. Additionally, personal belongings that are left behind on benches or anywhere on the church premises will be disposed;
2. We cannot allow homeless or transient friends to sleep on church property because we cannot protect them or insure their safety. Should you find someone on our parish campus after hours, we ask that you notify the Manchester Police Department at (603) 668-8711 so they can help redirect these individuals to safe havens and services;
3. There have been a number of incidents of needles discarded in

our gardens and on the grounds of our campus. Please alert a member of our staff if you notice a “sharp” on the property so that we can safely dispose of it and alert local authorities;

4. The purpose of these policies is not to punish those searching for shelter, but to help them find protection and direction. We recognize the issues of the homeless and transient populations of our city to be complex and multilayered, often requiring professional intervention and mediation.

Yours in Christ,
The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church

Lifelong Learning Opportunity

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Granite State College has just released its Spring catalog. I'm the secretary for the Manchester Curriculum Committee, and we will be offering ~ 80 classes at just *that* site. Seacoast, Concord, and Conway have a number of class offerings as well.

I've placed some catalogs on the table at the back of the nave and can easily procure more. I'll be leading a class in May entitled *Plan Your Own Funeral or Memorial Service - It Can Be Fun!*

I've been an active member since 2004, and have taken classes in literature, film, math, immigration, crime, law, and several other topics. We do trips locally and overseas. We have game days and other fun events. Our motto is *Come for the Classes; Stay for the Friends!* Pick up a catalog and join OLLI - the organization for adults 50+. You will be happy you did!

Jane W Van Zandt+

Reflections and Thoughts

Is Grace Church a Blue Zone?

For Christmas, Nancy-Ann and I were given a book entitled “The Blue Zones of Happiness” by Dan Buettner. During at least one meal a day, one of us reads it aloud to the other and we talk about

it. During our conversations, we also relate it to other parts of our lives. As we got deeper into the book, I began to wonder if Grace Church was a Blue Zone, meaning a place full of happy people and a place that promotes actions to increase happiness. To frame the setting, I would like to describe three factors affecting happiness which the book referred to as the “Three P’s”: Pleasure, Purpose, and Pride.

Pleasure could be measured by how often someone smiled, laughed, or felt joy each day, and it could come from interactions with friends, family, colleagues, etc. I have seen many times at Grace Church events when there was a great deal of pleasure. I also see it here in every-day activities.

Purpose involves things done for a reason. Buettner describes purpose as “.... living out your values and passions in the service of a greater purpose.” This could include volunteering for New Horizons or Laundry Love.

Pride relates to being satisfied with your accomplishments and your position in life. If someone enjoys making things, they might take pride when they build a piece of furniture. At Grace Church, those who started Laundry Love here can take pride in that accomplishment. In addition to the Three P’s, another factor is the overall atmosphere of a place. Happiness is enhanced if a place is welcoming, accepts diversity and has a strong sense of community. Grace Church has all of these, and I see examples of it often. Just recently, I happened to briefly observe the knitting group. After the meeting I was informed that there were some new people in knitting group who were non-parishioners, but quite skilled as knitters, and they helped some other new members who were parishioners and beginning knitters.

Just looking at the knitting group, I could see pleasure in their light-hearted exchange of stories, purpose in the members who made hats and mittens to be given to needy students in some Manchester schools, and pride in the quality of work they do.

I find Grace Church to be a very pleasant place. I feel like it encourages happiness.

Dick Feren

Dr. Seuss Breakfast

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring its 14th annual Dr. Seuss Breakfast on Saturday, March 16 from 9 to 11 AM. This is intended as an outreach activity to benefit children from several local elementary schools as well as from Grace Church. Activities are geared for children of kindergarten age to 3rd grade although all ages are welcome. Once again, the Cat in the Hat will be present to meet our guests and to read stories. Corky the Clown will perform a magic show.

We need your time, talent, and treasure. Could you contribute a bottle of apple juice or a dozen mini-muffins? Could you help supervise a craft project? Could you help clean up after the event? Sign-up sheets are on the kiosk for these and other possible ways to help. Tickets are free and can be obtained from members of the Outreach Committee or the church office.

There will also be canisters on the table at coffee hour during the month of February for monetary donations to help purchase supplies.

The Dr. Seuss Breakfast is a very popular event but can only be successful with your help.

If you have questions, contact Nancy-Ann Feren (603-627-2503) Nferen@comcast.net or Linda Heath (603-540-6393) lindar27@comcast.net

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following February birthdays celebrants!

2	Elyse Goyette	15	Paul Botana-Gumbs
	Lillian Goyette	17	Lucy Rhodes
8	Maria Douglas	20	Brent Stagnaro
9	Rachel Otto	21	Karen Taylor Kimball
12	Christine Anderson	25	Rohan Cline
	David Charlesworth	27	Theodore Lassonde
	Maureen Nagle	28	Ann Marvin
14	Debra Coakley		
	Ed Doyle		
	Emma McIver		

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

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.

Other Milestones:

Baptism: Caitlin Anne Abbott, December 30, 2018
Natiley Kyrsten Thompson, January 6, 2019
Funerals J. Isabelle Douglas, January 23, 2019
Cynthia Fradd Blood, January 26, 2019

Congratulations To!

The following slate of officers who were elected at the annual meeting held on Sunday January 27:

Vestry (3 year term): Carol Cote; Christopher Messier, Meghann White;

Vestry (1 year term to finish out unexpired term of David Roy): Chris Turner

Delegates to Southern Convocation/Diocesan Convention (2-year term):

Shelley Kesselman; Melissa Glassman;

Alternate to Southern Convocation/Diocesan Convention (2 year term):

Ann Hewins

VESTRY MEETING

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Present: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Steven Botana-Gumbs, Amy Brumfield, Richard Feren, Hank Gagnon, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Linda Heath, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Linda Lassonde, David Roy, Matthew Serge, Eileen Suckley

Excused Absence: Edward High

The meeting was opened with prayer at 7:00 PM followed by the reading of the Norms.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports (as corrected) with a consent agenda vote was made by Hank, seconded by Valerie, and was carried.

Dick presented the Financial Report as of November 30, 2018. Dick reported that he still feels that we should have a large influx of income in December since it is Christmas and we do have 5 Sundays in the month. He reported that he has received 80 pledge units for 2019.

VOTE: A motion was made by Eileen, seconded by Matt and approved by the Vestry to approve the financial report.

The Vestry reviewed the proposed budget for 2019. Gail reminded the Vestry that we had decided to create a balanced budget for

2019; she stated that it might be necessary to use more of the endowment fund in 2019 to make this happen. The Vestry made the following recommendations for changes in the budget:

5130 – reduce by \$9600 (Both Emery and Ken are now on Medicare)

5100 – reduce by \$1000

5180 – reduce by \$3000 (there is a Music and Choir Fund with \$5021)

5240 – reduce by \$5000 (eliminate the Miscellaneous Expense category from budget)

6100 – add \$5000 (Property Manager for Grace House)

Dick felt that the pledge income of \$230,000 for 2019 was realistic.

He will however review the pledged amounts for 2019. He will also review any other changes that can be made to help us reach a balanced budget. The Vestry will vote on the finalized budget at the January meeting.

Rev. Marjorie and the Wardens reported on their ECF meeting with Melissa Rau and Leslie Pendleton. They said that Melissa was energized and goal oriented. She is reviewing the data that was submitted to determine our core values (which are – outreach, worship and prayer, spiritual formation, community, inclusivity/welcome). She noted that music should be one of our core values as well. She suggested two dates for the Vestry retreat (where we would define our vision) – the Vestry chose the Saturday, March

2nd date for the retreat. She also said that she could offer either a 4 hour or 6 hour session. Rev. Marjorie will ask her to provide an agenda for each of those sessions so that the Vestry could decide which would be preferred.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

It was noted that the Annual meeting notice should be posted.

The meeting was adjourned 8:45PM. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on January 16th.

WORKSHOP & BIG SING with Jorge Lockwood of Music That Makes Community



Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, **Jorge Lockwood** serves as Minister of Worship Arts at The Church of the Village in New York City. He also Chairs the Worship and Liturgy Committee of the World Methodist Council. Jorge is passionate about worship that brings people together across the lines that often divide. **Epiphany, Newport** is a small church in central New Hampshire.

What: Singing workshop & community sing

When: Friday, 8 February, 9:30 - 4:30

Where: Epiphany Episcopal Church
2 Cedar Street, Newport, NH 03773

For: Music lovers & worship leaders

Cost: \$70 includes lunch & materials
(\$35 for seniors, students, seminarians
and congregations in tough straits)

Sign Up: www.musicthatmakescommunity.org

Contact: Paul Vasile 929.266.4662

(paul@musicthatmakescommunity.org)

What to expect

Participants will learn paperless techniques to enable congregational singing with an emphasis on music from the world church that connects with youngsters. We'll conclude with a community-wide Big Sing to enliven the spirit and remind us that we belong to God and each other.

The workshop is made possible, in part, by a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Grace Episcopal Church

106 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03101
Tel (603) 622-9813
Fax (603) 669-6044

gracechurchmanchesternh@gmail.com
www.gracechurchmanchester.org

Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector

Vestry

Linda Heath, Warden
Amy Brumfeld, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Richard Feren, Treasurer
Edward High, Assistant Treasurer

Valerie Anderson, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Ken Kjellander,
Christopher Messier, Matthew Serge, Eileen Suckley,
Chris Turner, Meghann White

Staff

Mark Cleveland, Director of Music
Ken Grinnell, Organist
Carter Beck, Organist
Kelley Muir, Church School Coordinator
Marlene Thompson, Parish Administrator
Lyn Marino, Assistant Parish Administrator
Jill Porter, Bookkeeper
Emery Freethy, Sexton
Susan Senneville, Nursery Care Giver
Ann Hewins, Grace House Manager

Newsletter

Kersten Matera & David Ross
gracechurchnewsletter@gmail.com

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Andrew Freshour

Next Newsletter Deadline

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