



Grace Notes April 2019

Our Mission Statement:
To know Christ & make Christ known
Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH





Table of Contents

Rector’s Message	3
From the Rector - On Grief	4
Festival Brass Ensemble	6
Music’s on the Menu	8
Dr. Seuss’ Breakfast Thanks	8
Loving Our Neighbor	9
Reflections and Thoughts	10
Cards for Recuperating Former Parishioners	11
Book Review - <i>Laudato si’</i>	12
Milestones	14
Laundry Love Notes	14
News From the Southern Convocation	16
Holy Week and Easter at Grace Church	18
Pledge Income Trend Graph	19
Vestry Meeting Minutes.....	19

Rector's Message

As a child I was blessed to spend many weekends with my maternal grandmother, June Schaefer. She was a cradle Episcopalian who faithfully attended Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Carle Place, New York. While I loved the parish my parents, three siblings, and I attended, going to church with my grandmother was an intimate and life changing experience. You see, Saint Mary's had no classrooms whatsoever. Thus, Sunday School took place in the fellowship hall, with individual classes sitting scattered throughout an expansive space at different tables. As I sat and read the bible with children my own age while simultaneously looking across the room and seeing several other age groups doing totally different activities. There was a dual feeling of both "doing my own thing" and witnessing the work of others. It was a powerful, we are all together experience.

When I arrived at church early on a Tuesday morning a few weeks ago after hearing the news of our parish break in, I was impressed to see how so many parish leaders already had arrived on the scene to help. Once we established the damage that had occurred and items that had been stolen, everyone immediately pitched in to take on various tasks with joy and optimism – from calling our insurance company, to photographing the damage, to triaging what clean up and repairs needed to be done first.

By lunchtime we all in gathered in our Parish Library for comfort food – subs and pizza from the Alley Cat. As we ate our lunch and laughed together, I silently gave thanks for the many faces and collective talent around our meal table. It's then I remembered the rhyme learned while attending Saint Mary's: *This is the church. This is the steeple. Open the door. And see all the people.*

I continue to pray for the persons who destroyed our property and stole from us. But rest assured in the midst of all the mess they left, we are so blessed. Blessed by our staff, leaders, parishioners who came and helped clean up, called or e-mailed their concerns, or stepped into the building simply to give hugs and cheer up gifts.

Friends, you are the church. Individually and collectively you create with your love, your work, your prayers a powerful, we are all together experience.

Blessings, gratitude, and love,
Marjorie +

From the Rector

On Grief

A month ago, I applied for a scholarship for a week-long preaching conference that will be held this coming July. The conference is titled, "The Bowed Head," and it will be held at the Center for Excellence in Preaching in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Clergy from across North America and the world will gather together to learn how to preach about and teach others about grief.

Today I just learned I was not selected to attend the conference. Still I am thankful I was invited to write a short submission on grief and apply for the program. Here is the reflection I penned for the application.

What Is Grief?

by The Reverend Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro

I remember talking with a bishop friend
When his mother-in-law met the end of her life
He called, and I was not appalled when he said,
*"Marjorie, I had forgotten how exhausting grief is.
"All I can do is cry and weep. This grief.
It seeps into every fiber of my being."*

Jesus, how did you manage your immense compassion fatigue?
How did you survive and thrive? As hoards of people came to your
door.

Always wanting more guidance, more healing, more comfort.

How was there enough of you to go around?

How did you surround others with holy wisdom, love, support?

As divinely human, humanly divine truly you defined, refined grief.

By who you were and how you were.

You wept at Lazarus' grave. And in doing so taught us to be brave.

That grief means standing by another's side.

And with humble pride giving the simplest gift of staying the
course.

When Peter's own mother-in-law was ill

You willingly went, willed yourself to be there.

Teaching grief means actively searching out the suffering of others.
Jesus, all night in the Garden of Gethsemane.
You talked, wrestled soul to soul with God.
Showing it is not odd to wonder why things happen.
Jesus, you called us above all else to remember God is with us.
That God's heart and our hearts merge beyond measure.
In the suffering and mess, the sadness and stress of life.

None of us, no matter who we are, is safe from grief.
Being human means regularly feeling.
Without warning, reeling from terrible, tragic news.

Long ago I sat with a man whose dearest love died on 9/11.
And all I could do was cry with him.
Burying a fifteen-year-old who took his own life because a girl sent
him a hurtful text.
And all I could do at that funeral is dearly and clearly say, "This
stinks."
Standing by the side of one parishioner, a wife.
When her husband died.
And all I could do was be grateful I knew him as long as I did.
That he showed me the way of love.

Walking into the local pizza place just today.
As eyes welled up with tears I heard the man behind the counter
say.
*"Marjorie. That house fire in Hampton last night - broadcast in the
news.
That was my 7-year-old grandchild who died. Why did he lose his
life?
What kind of God allows that?"*
All I could do was hold him and hear him.
And when I asked him what I could do. He said, *Just be you.
Just pray. Just pray. "OK", I said. "I will."*

Grief is exhausting. Grief means committing to stay and pray.
To say I do not understand why. But I do understand.
God is with you. God loves you. God died on a tree.
To understand the pain of you and me. How you love. How I love.

Lord, you give us the gift of being together with others.
And so we will hurt and cry and rage together.
And perhaps in the grief. We will find relief.
We will be able to say we are real. God is real.
Because we feel so deeply. AMEN.

Festival Brass Ensemble

Dear Grace Church Family,

Once again, we find ourselves in the season of Lent, a season of Preparation and Penitence in anticipation of Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection. While I would not presume to identify what particular acts of penitence the members of the Choir have undertaken this season beyond their weekly attendance at Choir rehearsals, I am able to assure you that we, the members of Grace Church's Music Ministry are significantly committed to the Preparation for this Feast Day, which will include the presentation of Handel's glorious final chorus from *Messiah*, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain"!

This year, in anticipation of our celebration of the Feast of Easter, the liturgical ministers at Grace Church have engaged a brass quartet to join with the Choir and to enrich and enliven our celebration of our 8:00 am and 10:30 am liturgies on Easter Day. The addition of the brass ensemble at *BOTH* Easter Day services that has so enriched our Easter celebrations the past four years has inspired us to engage the ensemble again this year, confident of your support which has made this festive emphasis possible.

I write this letter to you, asking you to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to defray the costs involved in this undertaking. In order to secure the professional services of these musicians on an Easter morning that will entail a 6:00 am rehearsal, performance at the 8:00 am Eucharist, a 9:15 am Choir rehearsal and performance at the 10:30 am Eucharist will involve considerable expense. As you may be aware, we have made an effort to manage the costs by scheduling all of the rehearsal time on Sunday. The training and stamina to

practice and perform such a condensed schedule requires musicians of the highest caliber. Once again, I am thrilled to inform you that a member of our Parish, Edward Doyle, trombone, has agreed to participate as a member of the ***St. Michael's Festival Brass***.

Please feel free to use the form below to indicate how you wish your gift to be acknowledged and whether you wish to memorialize your offering by remembering family and friends during this Holy Season. Any and every offering will be gratefully accepted. In order that acknowledgement of your offerings may be included in the Easter leaflets, please insure that your contributions have arrived at the Church Office by April 8.

Together in ministry, in gratitude for your gifts and of your support of the music ministry at Grace Episcopal Church and with joyful anticipation as we approach our observance of Easter,

Soli Gloria Deo,

Mark Andrew Cleveland, Choir Director
Kenneth Grinnell, Organist
Carter A. Beck, Organist



Please accept my/our offering of _____ in support of the Festival Brass Ensemble.

Name (as you wish it to appear in the Easter bulletin)

In memory/thanksgiving of:

_____ Please acknowledge this gift anonymously:

Music's on the Menu — April 17th Event

This month's event will happen on Wednesday, April 17, from 12:10 – 12:50 pm. The chefs creating the meal for the day, Mark, Carter and Ken (The Three Graces), are planning a many-course musical meal entitled "A Walk Through Holy Week." Yes, it is Holy Week which is filled with opportunities for worship, but we encourage you to consider being present at this free mid-day musical opportunity, if possible, and invite friends and family to join you for a short concert of music in the beauty of your church building presented by your liturgical music team. You can even bring your lunch, if you wish.

What's on the menu? A daily tour, Palm Sunday through Easter, including vocal solos, organ and harmonium solos, and piano-organ duets. Three musicians and three keyboards presenting music by Bach, Stainer, Drischner, Messiaen, Barber and Vaughan-Williams and more.

A public gathering of people hungry for a varied and interesting concert of music appropriate for the time of year and for the space.

We hope we have enticed you with aromas from the kitchen and hope to see you there!

Music's on the Menu is the continued partnership of Manchester Community Music School and Grace Episcopal Church to present free public concerts from fall to spring each year.

Dr. Seuss' Breakfast Thanks

The Outreach Committee sends a huge thank you to all of you who offered your time, talent, and treasure to make the 14th Annual Dr. Seuss Breakfast our most successful yet. We served breakfast to 119 children plus their parents.

The Cat in the Hat (a.k.a our own Lauren Cline) mingled with all the children and read stories. Corky the Clown entertained us with magic. The many artistic endeavors included face painting, Dr. Seuss hats, and a variety of other crafts.

Three City Year workers and seven students from the Central High Art Department joined Grace Church parishioners in helping with the art projects. More parishioners signed families in, cooked and served breakfast, and cleaned up.

Thanks to all of you. We could not do this project without your help.

Loving Our Neighbor

“For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O God” (Form V - Prayers of the People). As we said this prayer today, I was aware of how much we need to pray this every day. The killer in New Zealand apparently hates anyone who is not just like him. Too many in our own country think like that, with some acting on their hatred, by their speech or actions. Where did this come from?

I’m so thankful that my father taught me that if someone is different from me in any way, it affords an opportunity to learn from them. My best friend at Girls’ Latin School was Jewish. So, her family invited my parents and me to join them for Seder one year – a totally new experience for all of us. All but two of my colleagues at the hospital were Black. It was not unusual for me to be the only Caucasian at a backyard barbecue, or house party. I think of what I would have missed, if my heart had been filled with the kind of hate I see today. Most of my “forever” friends are gay. I was proud to be a marshal, leading the Episcopal Diocese of NH in Boston’s Pride Parade for two years. Homophobia would have robbed me of so much.

Our neighbors are those with whom we have something in common, people we enjoy being with. They are also immigrants, or those we might tend to avoid. Don’t speak French, or German, or Spanish? They can help us learn. Putting a human face on people who don’t dress like us, or speak like us, or worship like us, gives us an opportunity to learn about another way of doing things.

“Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honor one another and serve the common good” (Form IV).

Jane W Van Zandt+

Reflections and Thoughts

Meditation

In a book that Nancy-Ann was reading recently, there was a section where the author described a form of meditation called vipassana. It sounded interesting, so I did a little research. The information I found is based on a course by Mr. S. N. Goenka, and some comments based on a talk by him in Berne, Switzerland.

According to Goenka, “*Vipassana means to see things as they really are, and is one of India's most ancient techniques of meditation. It was taught in India more than 2500 years ago as a universal remedy for universal ills.*” The best known teacher of meditation was Gautama Buddha or simply the Buddha. His teachings were done about 2500 years ago, became well known and spread out to the rest of the world.

The training for vipassana takes about 10 days. During the training, students must be completely quiet for a 10-hour stretch each day. They are not allowed to talk or interact with other people, and must focus on the world entirely alone. This condition of being entirely alone makes people look at the world very differently than if they were constantly interacting.

We often experience things that upset us. What really matters is how we deal with them. The vipassana technique is not to react, but just to observe. If you react by getting angry, or trying to blame someone, or trying to escape the problem, it will keep coming back and eat away at you. However, if your focus is to observe rather than react, it provides a different perspective, and problems can gradually fade away. Vipassana helps us to see things from multiple perspectives. It makes it easier for someone

to realize that the world is about more than just them.

Quoting from Goenka: *“This is what the Buddha taught: an art of living. He never established or taught any religion, any ‘ism’. He never instructed those who came to him to practice any rites or rituals, any empty formalities. Instead, he taught them just to observe nature as it is, by observing the reality inside. Out of ignorance we keep reacting in ways which harm ourselves and others. But when wisdom arises—the wisdom of observing reality as it is—this habit of reacting falls away. When we cease to react blindly, then we are capable of real action—action proceeding from a balanced mind, a mind which sees and understands the truth. Such action can only be positive, creative, helpful to ourselves and to others.”*

I’m sure that the practice of long-term private meditation is not unique to India. There are places in the Bible that mention people going into the wilderness to be alone, including Jesus and John the Baptist. After a long session of meditating alone, someone becomes more sure of who they are, why they are here, and where they are going. In the New Testament reading of Luke 4:1-13, it is said that Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness, where He spent 40 days and was confronted by the devil. The devil said to Jesus, *“If you are the son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”* Jesus then answered him, *“It is written ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”*

This answer to the devil, and the other answers to the devil’s questions that followed, showed to me that Jesus had observed nature and reality in a broad way. He is able to direct actions away from narrow mindedness and towards the broader perspective, and what is good for all.

Dick Feren

Cards for Recuperating Former Parishioners

There are two former parishioners who are recuperating from major medical conditions. For those of you who remember Chuck Hardcastle, who with his wife Ann, were very active parishioners as well as vestry member and warden; and Jane Cleary who with

her husband, Jim, now deceased, were loyal members of our parish, they would probably delight in hearing from you.

Their contact information is as follows:

Chuck Hardcastle
Pines of Sarasota
1591 N. Orange Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34236

Jane Cleary
St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Home
496 Court Street,
Laconia, NH 03246.

Book Review

Laudato si' : on care for our common home :
Encyclical letter
By Pope Francis

Pope Francis begins by paying homage to the patron saint of the natural environment from whom he took his name: “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.”



In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

With deep reverence, specific references to Scripture and incorporating many previous statements of his predecessors, Pope Francis sets forth the Church's position on care of the environment in a series of six chapters assessing “What is Happening to Our Common Home;” citing to “The Gospel of Creation;” exploring “The Human Roots of the Ecological Crises,” arguing for an “Integral Ecology;” suggesting “Lines of Approach and Action;” and final-

ly, advocating for “Ecological Education and Spirituality.” Honest dialogue and respect for all is encouraged. Pope Francis cites Luke 12:6 for the proposition that no sparrow goes unheeded by God: “Are not 5 sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.” He praises the Bishops of Japan who wrote that: “to sense each creature singing the hymn of its own existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope.”

“Laudato Si” is a few years old, but it remains a powerful, timely and spiritually profound work. It will do so for some time I believe. It closes with two prayers penned by the Holy Father himself, one of which will be used to conclude this and remind us of our common responsibilities:

A Prayer for the Earth

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and of the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us every day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

David Ross

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following March birthdays celebrants!

3	Jok Leek	16	Samuel Thomas
4	Bob Bell		Sam Rousseau
8	Mallory McQuade	17	Jane Van Zandt
10	Donna McQuade		Anay Leek
	Edward High	18	Tom Suckley
12	Mark Thomas	28	Janet Keegan
13	Yan Leek	30	Jarrold Campbell
	Linda Garrish Thomas		Meghann White
	Greg Gagnon		
	Lori Ouellette		

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—Celebrations of Life:

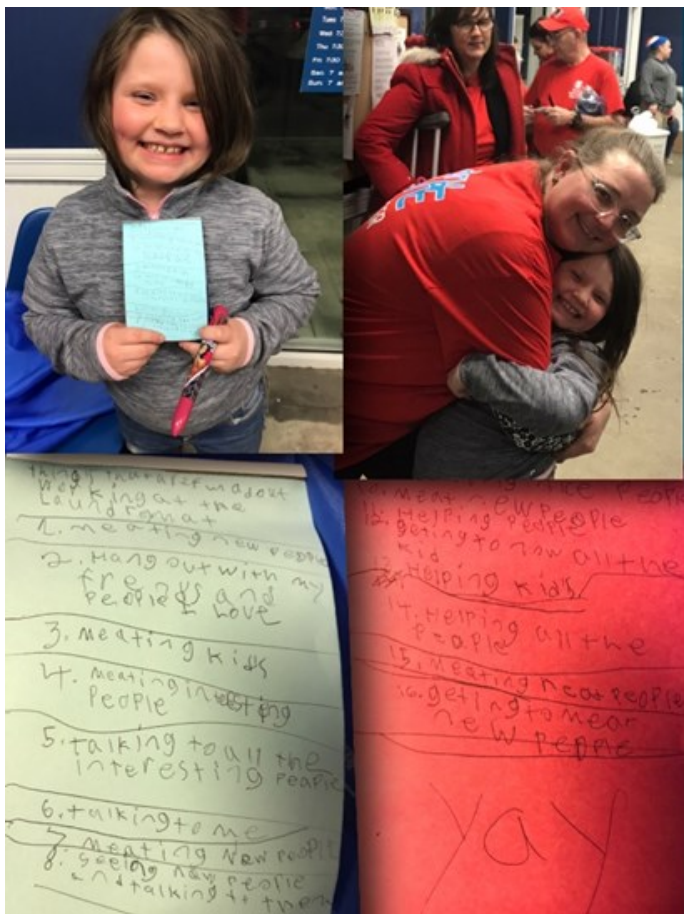
- The Rev. Daniel W. Ferry, February 8, 2019
- Richard S. Jefferson, March 8, 2019

Laundry Love Notes

Being curious By Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro with help from the amazing Olivia Canney

When you are stuck somewhere (i.e. waiting for a flight, waiting for your child to finish their karate class, waiting for your laundry to be washed and dried at a local laundromat), what do you do to make the time pass?

Some of us daydream. Some of us read. Some of us knit. Some of us sit and do nothing.



Thankfully, this past month a long time Laundry Love/Grace Church parishioner Olivia Canney, strengthened after eating two pieces of cake, decided to take up her Wonder Woman pen and a blank pad of paper, don her reporter's cap, and wander around Granite State Laundromat. Olivia, age eight, interviewed 16 different Laundry Love volunteers from our parish. She asked us all the same question: Why do you like working at Laundry Love? The answers were surprisingly similar. No one spoke of the importance of laundry and having clean clothes. Yet everyone spoke

of the importance of meeting new people and talking with others, all for the sake of kindness and love. Here are Olivia's findings about Laundry Love:

Things That Are Fun About Working At The Laundromat by Olivia Canney

1. Meeting new people
2. Hang out with my friends and people I love
3. Meeting kids
4. Meeting interesting people
5. Talking to all the interesting people
6. Talking to me.
7. Meeting new people
8. Seeing new people and talking to them
9. Meeting nice people
10. Meet new people
11. Helping people
12. Getting to know all the kids
13. Helping kids
14. Helping all the people
15. Meeting new people
16. Getting to meet new people.

YAY!

If you want to have fun, talk, meet new people, hang out with new friends, and spend time with people you love from our parish family, think about joining Olivia and many kind people at Granite State Laundromat, located at the corner of Lake and Union, on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6 PM.

News From the Southern Convocation

On February 25, 2019, the Southern Convocation reconvened at St. Matthew's in Goffstown after its winter break. New members were welcomed, and Grace Church delegates, Greg, Shelley and Melissa were in attendance.

Delegates were asked to share in small group discussions what their parishes were doing that they were particularly excited about. The Grace delegates talked about the Laundry Love Project, and how it provides practical assistance for those who need it; that it is an oppor-

tunity to be alongside others in a meaningful way and live out our baptismal promise to “respect the dignity of every human being. It may be a small thing for those of us who take doing laundry for granted, but having someone say “you deserve clean clothes” can mean the world to someone who is struggling financially. It is truly a ministry of presence, and our conversations generated real interest with our fellow delegates.

The main presentation of the evening centered on a very special upcoming event. Mark your calendars for the Episcopal Revival on Saturday May 4th at Windham Middle School. Leaders will be Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, and the Rev. Canon Dr. Patricia Lyons. It will be a day of spiritual renewal, relationship building, worship, music and learning how we can share our faith, especially with those who are curious about the Episcopal church and spiritual seekers. Canon Lyons is an expert in the areas of mission, evangelism and community engagement, and will have much to share in this important aspect of the Christian life. Many of us would love to have the important conversations with others about our faith, but aren’t sure how to go about it.

The hope for this day is that we will come away with a fresh enthusiasm for what we as Episcopalians have to offer the world, and the tools to share it more effectively. We are hoping to get a large group from Grace to participate in this day of learning and sharing, so please see Shelley Kesselman if you are interested in attending. Transportation to Windham can be arranged. This is one of the more exciting things that our corner of the diocese has done in a long time, and we don’t want the grace folks to miss out on it, so stay tuned for further announcements!!

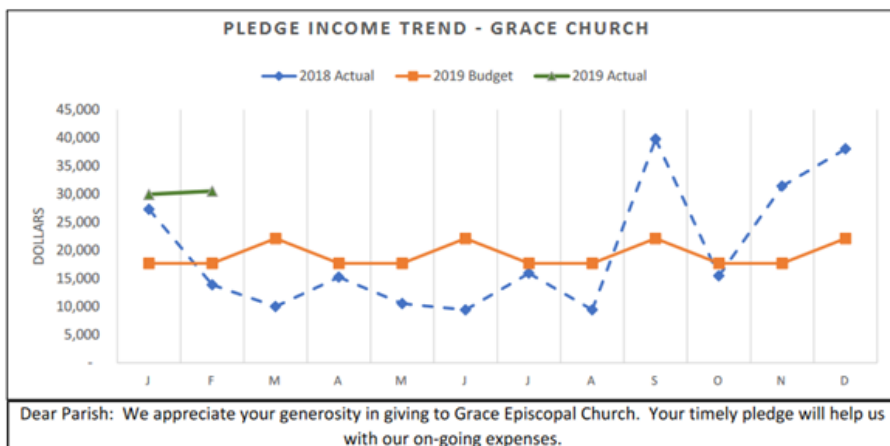
Convocation business continued with the election of a co-convenor and a secretary. A brief fellowship time followed, and your parish delegates warmly welcomed the convocation to Grace for the March 26 meeting.

Remember that your convention delegates represent YOU to the convocation and the diocese. If there is something you think is important in the life of The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire that needs to be discussed, please speak with Greg, Melissa, or Shelley.

Shelley Kesselman

Holy Week and Easter at Grace Church

Sunday April 14	Palm/Passion Sunday 8 am - Holy Eucharist with hymns 10:30 am - Choral Eucharist (incense)
Tuesday April 16	8 am - Morning Prayer , Chapel
Wednesday April 17	8 am - Morning Prayer , Chapel 7:30 pm - Service of Tenebrae , Chapel
Thursday April 18	Maundy Thursday 8 am - Morning Prayer , Chapel 7:30 pm - Liturgy of the Day: Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar 9 pm - Watch before the Altar of Repose (continues through Friday morning)
Friday April 19	Good Friday 8 am - Morning Prayer , Chapel 12 pm - Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm - Liturgy of the Day (Communion from Reserved Sacrament)
Saturday April 20	Holy Saturday 7:30 pm - Great Vigil & First Eucharist of Easter (<i>Incense</i>)
Sunday April 21	Easter Day 8 am - Festival Eucharist with hymns and brass 10:30 am - Festival Eucharist with choir, hymns and brass. <i>Child care provided/no Church School</i> <i>Easter Egg Hunt following 10:30 service</i>



VESTRY MEETING Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Present: Gail Austin, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Linda Heath, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Christopher Messier, Matthew Serge, Eileen Suckley, Meghann White, Chris Turner, David Roy.

Excused Absence: Valerie Anderson, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro

The meeting was opened by Linda at 7:00 PM with al prayer. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

We spent a few minutes of

“get to know you time” with our new Vestry Members.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote (with the endowment report correction) was made by Eileen, seconded by Hank, and was carried.

Amy reported that Gail and Dave had accepted the positions of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively. The Vestry now had to vote approval.

VOTE: A motion was made by Matt, seconded by Ken and approved by the Vestry to approve Gail as Treasurer and Dave as Assistant Treasurer. The motion car-

ried.

Gail reported that she would like to put something in the newsletter to update the parishioners as to how the pledge income was trending. She presented a graph which showed actual, budget and previous year. The Vestry all liked the graph presentation.

She presented the updated balance sheet for the endowment, operating, and property funds for December 2018. She also presented the financial report for January. She indicated that some parishioners had prepaid their pledge for 2019 in December of 2018.

VOTE: A motion was made by Hank, seconded by Chris M. and approved by the Vestry to approve the updated balance sheet for December 2018 and the financial report for January 2019.

Dave reported that the funds we have from the endowment fund are currently earning only 0.02%. He is looking into where the funds should be placed so that they would earn a better interest and still be liquid.

Amy reported that the parochial report had been filled out and needed the signatures of the treasurers.

She stated that the Vestry had not designated what the COLA increase would be for the staff increases.

VOTE: A motion to have the COLA increase of 2% be given to the staff retroactive to February 1st was made by Ellen, seconded by Ken and approved by the Vestry.

The Vestry had been sent the job descriptions for the staff. The job descriptions for the organist, book keeper, and sexton as well as the contract had been passed by the Vestry via email.

VOTE: A motion to approve the job descriptions for the parish administrator, music director, and nursery care was made by Chris M., seconded by Matt and approved by the Vestry.

Special thanks were given to Eileen for all the work she had done to compose all the job descriptions and contract.

Linda reported that we had 3 counter teams and could use more people to volunteer. She noted that a background check would be required. Hank and Linda have previously volunteered; Chris M., Chris T. and Megan said that they would be interested. Gail will set up training for the new people.

The treasurers reported that we had received \$160,000 from the endowment fund and had already planned on using \$80,000 in our operating budget. There has been a plunge in the market and the realization is that we cannot necessarily count on receiving the same amount next year. The Vestry discussed how much of the \$80,000 should be held back and how much we should use for programs. The intent is that we have a capital fund drive and have matching from the endowment fund.

VOTE: A motion to keep \$40,000 in reserve for capital projects was made by Eileen, seconded by Hank and approved by the Vestry.

The Vestry reviewed the list of things and/or places that

had been itemized at the annual meeting of where the endowment funds should be allocated. Each Vestry member will have a list (no more than 4) of what programs they would like to have the endowment money used for by the March 2nd retreat meeting.

Linda asked the new Vestry members to look at the list of the committees that the parish has and to pick one to participate in.

Amy reported that signatures were needed in a document that Ed Doyle had prepared to allow a food grant for Central High School with the monies to be provided by the diocese.

The newsletter current deadline is the 15th – and the newsletter is emailed in the 3rd week. The schedule will have to be adjusted so that any financial reports/graphs that would be included would be current and approved.

Amy reported that the Vestry would be reading “Becoming a Welcoming Church” by Thom Trainer. The members will be given this book at the

retreat.

one social event.

Nancy reported that the limit of the Great Hall is 113. This year the St. Patrick's supper will have 110 tickets available for the event (which will be sold before the event and at the door).

Amy reported that Picnic in the Park had grown too large for us to host it in the Great Hall. Talks will be held with Candia Congregational Church.

Chris T. reported that efforts are being made to have a middle/high school youth group with Brookside. He said they would probably aim to have 3 service events and

The meeting was adjourned 8:10PM. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on March 20th.

VOTE: The parochial report was approved by the Vestry via email vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

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
The Reverend Mike Andres, Deacon

Vestry

Linda Heath, Warden
Amy Brumfeld, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Gail Austin, Treasurer
David Roy, 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
Justin & Nicole Otto, Church School Coordinators
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

Cover Illustration

Andrew Freshour

Next Newsletter Deadline

April 15, 2019

Grace Notes

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