



Grace Notes October 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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Rector's Reflection

Backyard Barbecues A Time to Trade Faith Stories

A few weeks before summer's end, my son Zach and I attended a pool party with several children and parents we'd met through Zach's performance work at the Palace Theatre. The parents who invited us were the perfect hosts. They had just built a massive pool, a lovely patio, and a massive cabana with fully functioning kitchen right next to their new "swimming hole."

While the tweens were off swimming in the pool, a bunch of the mothers sat down together to get to know one another. We spoke about our shared love of the Palace Theatre and how our children all agreed the best friends they have they have found for themselves is because of the singing, dancing, and teamwork they collectively pursue together by performing.

My children often ask me **not** to share what kind of work I do for a living with others. While they are proud of what I do, both prefer me to be known, at school and parties and social events, as simply "mom." But as the pool party continued late into the afternoon, it was inevitable the adults would begin discussing what they did professionally. And so I shared with a handful of new friends about our family's move from Washington, DC 8 years ago, then shared a bit about my position at Grace Episcopal Church.

To be honest, I was shocked by how the other moms received and conversed about my work. The host mom, a faithful Roman Catholic, spoke of her son's interest in sports, how her husband coaches his son's baseball and basketball teams, and how insistent their family was that no sports games be played on Sundays so they could attend church every week. Another mom, who I had known for several months, was thrilled to hear I was an Episcopal priest. She immediately exclaimed, "We attend the Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua!" A third mom, a child and family therapist, spoke of the importance of people like she and I living out our calls in the world as counselors for others during difficult times. I came away from that backyard barbecue time thinking how important it is – for pastors, parents, children, everyone – to talk to others outside the church about our faith.

I am grateful for all the ways our parish family lives and share its

faith beyond the walls of our beautiful nave. Be sure to be present in church on October 20th, 27th, and November 3rd to hear members of our parish preach about how their faith and worship recreate them to become people who love to tell their stories beyond the boundaries of our church.

Blessings and love,
Marjorie xo+



Making Grace Church Beautiful

A lot of people tell me that the lawn looks good. That makes me feel proud. But in my heart, I know that the yard looks good because of a lot of other people who don't get credit.

Ken Grinnell does the trimming every week and catches any spots I missed. That makes the grass look perfect. Christopher Messier trims the planters and waters the flowers two times a week so they look good.

Some people bring flowers to the cemetery part and they pull the weeds around the special places. My mom dead heads the roses and when there's a big mess, she helps me figure out how to fix it. Emery is always making things look good and picking up trash that people leave behind and checking to see that nothing dangerous is left. A lot of people help with the spring and fall clean up. Linda Heath and I always work together. I like that because I love her and it's a fun group and Mr. Anderson brings donuts. But people should know that it takes a team to make things look good. I think we are a very good team.

Tom Suckley



Northern New England Walk n' Roll to Cure Ataxia

The Northern New England Walk n' Roll to Cure Ataxia will be held Saturday, October 5th, Registration at 9 a.m., Walk at 10 a.m., at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire in Londonderry. No registration fee - Donations only. You may donate online, <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/AtaxiaWalkNH/JillandKenPorter> by check

or cash or by text: AtaxiaWalkNH10 to 71777 (MSG. and data rates may apply).

The Walk n' Roll to Cure Ataxia program is the National Ataxia Foundation's largest national grassroots fundraising campaign held in recognition of International Ataxia Awareness Day (IAAD).

Walk n' Rolls across the country bring together families, friends, co-workers, neighbors and communities each year to support NAF's fight to improve the lives of people affected by Ataxia and their families. This includes research and involvement with pharmaceuticals who are currently conducting drug trials and studies.

Ken's Spinocerebellar Ataxia was diagnosed 10 years ago. It is from an inherited dominant gene. Our goal is to raise \$5000.00. Please consider supporting this worthy cause. We thank everyone who has already donated to our fundraising this year.

Thank you for caring for us and keeping us in your prayers,

Jill and Ken Porter

Grace Church Book Group

The Grace Church Book Group welcomes all parishioners and friends to be part of a reading, eating (delicious potluck lunch) and discussion experience. The gathering begins at noon in the Grace Church Library on the third Tuesday of each month. The 'season' started with 'The Rent Collector' in September. The Fall reading selections are:

- *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, by Susan Cain - 10/15
- *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* by Susan Ella MacNeal - 11/19

No meeting in December

Sara Everett Celebration of Life

As most of you know, my daughter Sara, passed away 3 years ago from an overdose. Sara struggled bravely and fiercely to overcome this disease, and her determination and grace during those years will never be forgotten. Sara's illness, however, does not define her life. Please join the Everett family in celebrating Sara's bright light, free spirit, loving compassion, determination, and kindness on Saturday, October 12th, @ 2:00pm, at Lake Massabesic. Light refreshments, and immense love will be served.

The Celebration be held at the Fair Haven Boat Launch on Rte #121. Coming from Manchester, enter the Massabesic Circle, then take the second exit on to Rte 121 (Sandy's Variety will be on your right). Continue past ST. Peter's Church, and the entrance to the boat launch will be on your right, next to an old white building that says "Severance Nurse School" (I believe this was an old congregation and is now abandoned). You will see the metal gate, and as you enter a sign with Fair Haven on it. Drive down to the parking lot, and then walk to the stop sign and take a left to the boat launch.

Terry Everett
603-486-5798



Gifts for ChIPS

For many years parishioners of Grace Church have provided gifts for the diocesan ChIPS (Children of Incarcerated Parents) program in which incarcerated parents (or sometimes grandparents or older siblings) are able to select Christmas gifts to give to their children at the annual holiday party. This helps to give inmates an opportunity for connection with their families, a way to show the children that they are not forgotten. It is the goal of the committee to provide each child with a gift and a book. Once the gifts are chosen, volunteers wrap the gifts and the prison throws a party. The families visit and the inmates give the presents to their children.

This year the Grace Church Outreach Committee is encouraging the donation of money rather than gifts. We understand that the diocese has some gifts in storage; cash will enable them to buy additional “in” gifts. Outreach will add enough money to what is collected so we can send \$500 to the Diocese. Deadline is November 3. Clearly mark on your check or an envelope with cash that your gift is earmarked for ChIPS.

Reflections and Thoughts

Church Style: Part II

Do Grace Church Services Make it a Hi Church?

In last month’s Reflection, I described a few things that indicate that Grace Church is a “high” church. Many of you know that I like word-play, so I naturally wondered if Grace Church was also a “hi” church.

Over the years, talking with parishioners, I have heard many people comment on how welcome they felt when coming to Grace Church for the first time. Some were new to this area and were church-shopping; others were already in this area and were visiting other churches nearby because they weren’t totally satisfied with the church they had been attending. All of those I had talked with said that when they came to Grace Church, their search stopped because they felt they had found a place where

they felt truly welcome and wanted to be a part of our community.

Once people become part of Grace Church, they usually like to share their welcome-ness with others. This includes new members and long-term members of Grace Church. Our ushers and greeters are good examples. I'm sure they were a major factor in helping the new people feel welcome.

But how about those of us who are not ushers and greeters? Can the whole community have a similar effect? Can Grace Church activities influence other people? I think so. Let's consider some of our outreach activities that I mentioned in my previous article. These include Dr. Seuss Breakfast, Mitten Tree/Giving Tree, Laundry Love, and New Horizons. They certainly send a message of inclusion. Once people become involved with an activity, they feel like they are a part of it, and hence truly a part of Grace Church.

Another environment that I consider welcoming, but might surprise some people, is Vestry. I am thinking specifically of the moments before the business gets underway when people read the norms. At the start of the meeting, all are basically reminded that: "We shall do our best to adhere to these norms." The two that I think most relevant here are # 2 & 6.

#2. To listen to one another, making sure all viewpoints are heard, before making a decision.

#6. To ensure this is a safe place for difference of opinion. We will all attempt to the best of our ability to voice our concerns.

I know it is possible for people to say they will do something, and then not do it, but my vestry experience has been very positive, where all members try to make others feel welcome.

One last thought about how important our actions are comes from a piece I heard recently on National Public Radio. It described a study done that noted how people's actions were influ-

enced by the actions of other people. One example is the following:

A person gets on an elevator; and stands facing the door where he will exit. At the next floor, two more people get on and stand facing the back wall. The original person keeps facing the door at the front. A couple floors higher, another person gets on and also stands facing the back of the elevator. The original person now turns and faces the back of the elevator.

The implication is that actions (and possibly words) of other people can influence how we act in situations. Keep in mind how important your actions are. We want to keep Grace a “Hi” church.

Dick Feren

Art Show

Drawings (Graphite on Paper) & Paintings (Acrylic)

Where: Manchester City Hall - 1st Floor - Both Hallways (East & West)

When: Oct 1 - Nov 30, 2019

Hours: Building Office Hours (until 5pm in West Hall)

Of note for Grace Church members: Most of the portraits I've drawn are of Grace Church Members and their families. I will not list or identify anyone by name. I haven't and do not plan to put any of the portrait drawings online. If you do not want a portrait of you or a family member to be shown for any reason, it is important that you let me know.

You can call my home phone 603-647-9125 and leave a message if you miss me.

If you're not able to get hold of me before Oct 1, I'm happy to replace any work after the show has opened as well. I have more work than wall space so it's not a problem to replace any work that's a concern with another piece.

There will be a reception but the dates/times are TBD (the plan is to hold it at the end of the 3rd week in October).

Thanks to the Grace Church Family for their patience, encouragement and support as I've been learning and practicing the art of portraiture. Without that, this exhibit would not have been possible.

Thank you,
Robert Fox

Pampered Chef Coffee Hour October 16th

Contact Gail Schuman for additional information at (601) 935 8602 or people can see products at pamperedchef.biz/gschuman. If people want to order in advance, call Gail to order so I know it goes to church fundraiser. Amount will be 10% to 17% of total sales. Percentage depends on the sales.

Thanks Gail Schuman

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following October birthdays celebrants!

3	Clare Yerberg	17	Atoch Leek
4	Mark Kimball	18	Marco Protano
6	Eileen Suckley	19	Mary Wyatt
7	Liam Gallagher	21	Sam Anderson
	David Ross	22	Rodney Padmore
9	Suzan Padmore		Danielle Blevens
10	Jim Thomas	23	Linda Lassonde
11	Toby Fox	24	Ken Grinnell
	Davan Muir	29	Brad Rousseau
12	Justin Taylor		Warren Koch
13	Ronald Paquin	30	Lisa Atkinson
14	Barbara Maloney		

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 under-

standing 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.

VESTRY MEETING

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Present: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Linda Heath, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Christopher Messier, David Roy, Matthew Serge, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Eileen Suckley, Chris Turner, Meghann White

Excused Absence: Amy Brumfield

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Rev. Marjorie at 7:00 PM. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

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

Nancy reported that the Ministries Expo will take place on Sunday, September 21st starting at the coffee hour after the 8:00 service and continuing through the 10:30 coffee hour service. A brochure with information sent by the chairs of all the committees/groups will be available. The layout of the event was described. Each of the committees/groups are to have a representative at the event and all should provide some finger food for the event. The members of the Vestry were asked to make sure that the committees/groups they were involved with have all the information and have made all the appropriate arrangements for the event.

Gail presented and "Analysis of Pledge Income as of June 30, 2019". She explained that there were 68 pledging units; there are also a few parishioners that give regularly but do not submit a pledge amount. The pledge information was broken down into pledge ranges showing number of units in each of the categories. She reported that the total annual pledge amount was approximately \$200,000. A number of the pledges have been prepaid and have been included in 2018 financials and therefore present as an underpayment in 2019.

David reported that \$87,700 has been pledged for the Capital Campaign and have received \$40,700 thus far.

Gail had sent all the July financials (and explanations) for the Vestry to review. There were no questions.

VOTE: A motion was made by Eileen, seconded by Valerie to approve the Financial Report for July. The motion carried.

Chris reported that \$10,000 from the endowment fund has been allocated to Laundry Love.

Ken reported that he had contacted the Manchester Community Music School and had three programs that he would suggest we contribute a \$10,000 donation from the endowment fund. They are as follows

- Sponsoring 3 scholarships for an afterschool program for leadership training
- Sponsoring an honors string quartet
- Sponsoring a flute choir (a couple of ensembles)

VOTE: A motion was made by Hank, seconded by Matt to allocate \$10,000 to the Music School for the programs presented. The motion carried.

Christopher has suggested that we consider our third endowment donation for 1269 Café. He will contact them and gather the information necessary.

Rev. Marjorie reported that the panic buttons have been installed. She reported that there are three permanent panic buttons: at Marlene's desk, in the rector's office, in the financial office. There are 4 pendants that can be used as needed. On Sunday's there will be one in the sacristy, one in the back of the church (for the ushers to access), one in the Nursery, and one in the Sunday school room. We discussed that a button should be available to groups that meet during the week and perhaps be brought up for coffee hour. We need to develop a signup sheet so that we can track who and where the buttons are.

Linda reported that there are 5 ladies and one gentleman from City Year that have rented rooms and the garage. The rent for the rooms is \$500 and the rent for the garage is \$40 (rented by the gentleman).

Interment in the Memorial Garden will be restricted to parishioners and their families/close friends. There will be a charge of \$200 (which can be waived if necessary); the remains must be contained in a biodegradable container.

Linda reported that the Dioceses has upgraded the requirements for Safe Church Training. Gail distributed a chart of those who must have Safe Church Training and their current status. Chris T. volunteered to be the Safe Church Minister.

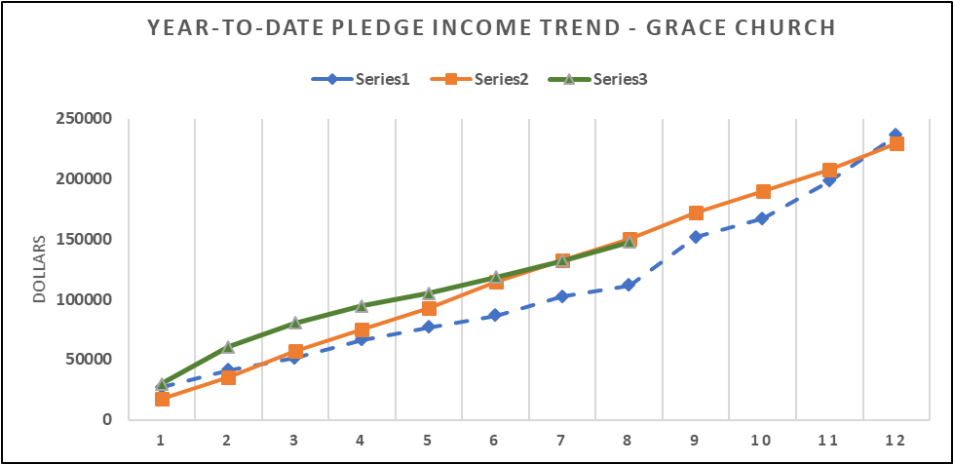
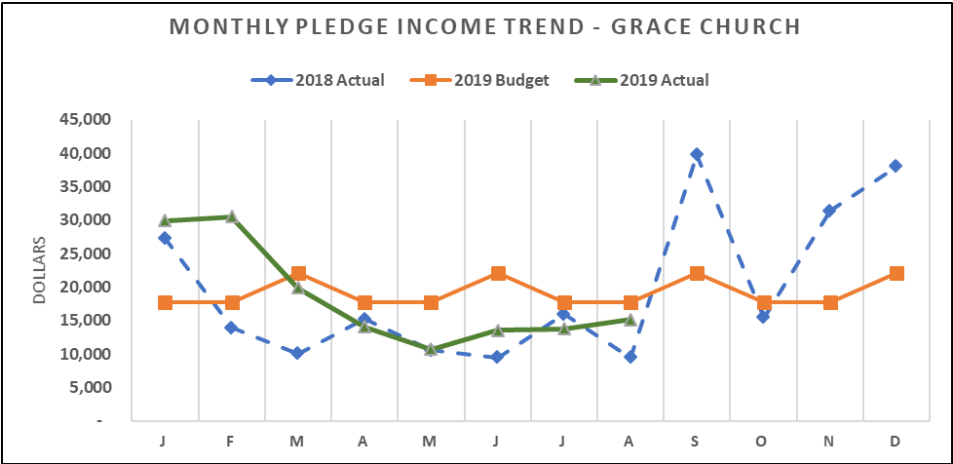
The Vestry discussed continuing the rental of Grace House to City Year

participants; there are 5 who have indicated that they would like to be tenants at Grace House next year. The rent for the rooms will be increased from \$450 to \$500 per month. The back of the house will be redone; cleaning and painting of the interior will be done as well.

Rev. Marjorie read a letter to the Vestry that she will share with the congregation on Sunday.

There next Vestry meeting will be September 18th.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk



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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

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Next Newsletter Deadline

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