



Grace Notes
December 2019
January 2020

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: Human Giver Syndrome

It is very rare that I am so impressed with a book that I purchase it both as in the form of a hard copy AND as an audio book. But after starting to read *Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle* I did just that. This text, authored by twin sisters Emily and Amelia Nagoski, was written specifically for women. And yet so much of the wisdom within the book can resonate with all of us. The book speaks across a wide range of issues: focusing on positive goals, completing the stress cycle, being fully aware of one's body and when signs of exhaustion appear, redefining our views of failure, being kind to one's self. The book is dedicated, not to specific family and friends of the authors, rather, beautifully and simply, the sister authors say it was written: "For the givers."

For the givers. If we live out our lives as Christians, we all fall under this category. We worship a Savior who gave of himself tirelessly. Birthed as an impoverished infant into a feeding trough, Jesus grew up with a deep sense and longing to offer himself to others: in conversations, in sermons, with the power of healing touch, in his teachings, and simply by being present and among others. He gave himself away every day, then finally and brutally gave up his life on the cross. In his image we too, every day, choose to give ourselves away in the context of a myriad of relationships with friends, family, work colleagues, and even strangers. As Shirley Chisholm once explained, "*Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.*"

We are in the midst of a vast and wonderful season of giving here at Grace Church and beyond our walls. We experienced, in our own way, Halloween - the one day out of the year when candy is given freely and lovingly to anyone who knocks on our door. We will soon gather around tables and feast on Thanksgiving, encouraging sacred time with family and friends and hopefully also remembering those who are less fortunate than we are. Finally, we move towards Advent and the Christmas season, a time to think less of ourselves and more of others and express that care and love with the giving of gifts, as the Wise men did long ago.

As we live into this season of giving that can be extremely stressful and straining to body, mind, and spirit, remember that wellness

means balancing both caring for others AND caring for yourself. Take time to pray, to rest, to find sacred moments with family and friends, and to count your blessings. In the words of Emily and Amelia Nagoski: *"The cure for burnout is not 'self-care'; it is all of us caring for one another. Trust your body. Be kind to yourself. You are enough, just as you are right now. Your joy matters. Please tell everyone you know."*

Blessings and love,
Marjorie +

P.S. After the holiday season, I'd love to host a discussion of this particular book with anyone interested. Please let me know if you'd like to join in the conversation.

Trunk or Treat Thanks

A big thank you to our Fellowship Committee for hosting our parish's first ever Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 27th at our 10:30 coffee hour. Children of God of all ages dressed up and had a ton of fun.





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Tuesday, December 24th

CHILDREN'S SERVICE 4:00 pm

SACRED CONCERT 7:30 pm

CHORAL EUCHARIST 8:00 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS 11:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 am

106 Lowell St

www.gracechurchmanchester.org

Info: Tel (603) 622-9813

Sending Comfort to California Fire Victim

Sarah Stockton, a resident of Los Angeles who grew up at Grace Church called her mother, Linda Chamberlain with a request. Her friend, Sara, a Muslim living with her family in the area of the Saddlebridge fire, had been in touch. Sarah's father died of a massive heart attack as a result of the stress and terror of dealing with that wildfire near their home. Sarah was calling Linda to see if there were any prayer or comfort shawls available. She wanted to give one to Sarah and she wanted to give it from her childhood parish home. There was a beautiful one made by Judy Daigle available and Sarah received it in a couple of days. She reported back that it was received with grateful tears.

It brings the knitting group such joy to know that the fruits of our monthly gatherings can bring such love to those in need. If you or someone you know would benefit from a prayer or comfort shawl, please let the church office know.

Parish Knitting Retreat Thanks

Just a quick note to thank EVERYONE for coming and helping us make our Parish Annual Knitting retreat (which took place on Saturday, October 26th from 9 AM to 3 PM) such a fun day. Thank you to all those who brought soups and snacks, all those who contributed yarn and books to the swap table, and everyone who just came to enjoy the day. What a wonderful excuse to hang out and knit!! It's wonderful to hear about all the projects people are working on and to see all the charitable knitting that goes on all around us.

Last year we had 35 people attend, this year 38 (including a large group from the Birch Hill Retirement community) - a new record! So many people came up to us to say how nice everyone is who attends this event and we absolutely couldn't agree more. So thank you all for everything!! It was really another wonderful day!!! We hope we can do it again next year. The tentative date is already set for October 24, 2020, so mark your calendars!

Enjoy the holidays and we hope to see you all again soon.

Gratefully,
Linda Chamberlain & Karen West
Grace Episcopal Church Knitting Group Co-Chairs



1269 Café Support

On Monday, October 28th, Grace Church warden Linda Heath and Vestry member Christopher Messier handed off a \$10,000 check (revenue from the Addison Fund) to support the work and ministry of the 1269 Café here in Manchester.

The 1269 Café ministers to hundreds of people in Manchester who are living on the edge. The Café's objective is to remove suffering by showing God's love in action in numerous ways - from gifts of groceries and coffee to prayer and emotional support.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of 1269 Café, please speak to Christine Stevens, Susan Tonnar, and Sue Bochinski, all of whom have supported and served with this amazing organization.

This past Fall our congregation was blessed to hear four amazing parishioners who all have a heart for outreach speak about how being a part of Grace Church impacts their souls and encourages them to move beyond our parish walls and serve others.

We give thanks for the words and wisdom of Bill Bochinski, Michael Duffy, Susan Tonnar, and Christine Stevens who served as our Stewardship speakers for the 2019 Stewardship year. Each one of them spoke on the theme "Jesus Inside, Jesus Outside."

Thank you to Christine Stevens and Susan Tonnar, who provided for this month's newsletter their thoughts so those of us who were not present could learn a bit more about the work of Manchester's 1269 Café. Their thoughts and reflections follow.

2020 Stewardship Campaign and The 1269 Café

The theme of our 2020 stewardship campaign is “Jesus inside, Jesus outside” - how we each share what we get inside the walls of Grace Church and take it with us outside and into the world. I was asked to speak about the 1269 Café which is an organization at which Susan Tonnar, Sue Bochinski, and I volunteer on a weekly basis.

The 1269 Café is located in the former Manchester Police Building on Chestnut and Manchester Streets. It is a safe place where people living on the edge due to being homeless or living below the poverty line are able to get a warm meal, some assistance with their basic needs and spiritual encouragement. The 1269 Café provides a warm lunch every weekday. The premise of the 1269 Café is one of compassion, respect and encouragement. It is a place where a person’s potential is more important than reminding them of their brokenness. The founders, Mary and Craig Chevalier, embrace and live Deuteronomy instruction (Chapter 15:11): “There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So, I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbors in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbors”.

Prior to each meal at 1269, a verse of scripture is read followed by a brief sermon. I have watched the patrons as we wait to serve the meal. The room is silent, some guests probably are zoning out – don’t we all occasionally do that? But many people are listening to the words, nodding their heads, vocalizing their agreement with what is being read and said. 1269 feeds the soul as well as the body.

Many of 1269’s current volunteers have known what it is to live on the streets. Each volunteer who has shared their story with me has said that volunteering at 1269 is their way of giving back to an organization that reminds them daily that God loves them and deems them worthy of respect, even when they have been at their lowest points.

This is a faith-based organization. The mission statement is: *To show God’s love in action, and by loving people as they are and leading them to a better way to live.* Guests do occasionally present clearly under the influence of some substance. Everyone is welcomed and only asked to leave if they cause a disturbance. However, most often that person is presented with a path to regain the trust of the group. I

have witnessed the compassion and respect that the Café's patrons show to each other. It is truly humbling for me to witness people who have so little comforts in their lives reach out to help another person who is experiencing despair.

The Grace Church endowment fund recently made a very generous donation to the 1269 Café. This will go a long way to pay rent and for necessary supplies. 1269 is funded by donations only – no local or state funds.

I am ashamed to admit that I never realized that some things that I consider 'necessities' are a very valuable commodity to a person who is homeless or living on the edge. Keeping my body clean and not offensively odiferous is something that I do not consider a challenge in my life. I did not realize that out of necessity clothing is disposable for a homeless person. These individuals are not being wasteful – a person simply cannot carry much in a few shopping bags. Keeping clean is a huge challenge for a person living on the streets – and even in a boarding house. Clean underwear and socks, toothbrushes and toiletries are always needed as well as hats and mittens as the cold weather approaches.

The patrons (and many volunteers) at 1269 are living on the edge; they face situations that most of us cannot imagine. Care and attention is paid to the soul as much as the physical needs of its patrons. The scriptures read prior to each meal remind guests that they are worthy of God's love, that prayer may be a comfort to them as they struggle to survive because no one is alone if they walk with God in their heart.

The 1269 Café is one way that I take the lessons I learn inside the walls of the Church outward – just as many parishioners do when they participate in Church ministries. And that is to treat all people with the same respect, compassion and acceptance that Jesus has for us. I agree with Richard Rohr, to me Christianity is more than belonging to a church or religious system. It is when I turn outward from my religion, my circle and take what I have learned within that circle outward that I celebrate and live my faith. If you are interested in learning more about the 1269 Café, would like to volunteer or contribute some necessities, please see me.

Christine Stevens

The 1269 Café - What would Jesus Do?

Show up any day at lunch time at the 1269 Cafe, and you can see Jesus in action.

There will be lunch (served to roughly 100 people per day) which is preceded by a “sermonette” and prayer.

If you are being trafficked, there will be someone to help you.

If you are addicted, there is a suboxone clinic on Wednesdays after lunch.

If you are under the influence and need immediate help, someone will walk you next door to Safe Station.

If you need food, there is a weekly food pantry where you can go shopping.

If you need warm clothes, there is a closet.

If it is cold, there is a warming station in the afternoon.

If it is hot, a cooling station is provided.

This is a 7 day a week ministry run by volunteers from diverse churches and people who were or are homeless and have found help.

We need only to look around the 1269 Cafe to answer "What would Jesus do?"

Susan Tonnar

Thoughts and Reflections

Timing Your Spending

I sometimes wonder why people or organizations spend, or don't spend, their money at certain times or for certain things. One reason can be wanting to keep what you have or get more, and another can be wanting to give to help a cause. I recently got some insight toward this quandary while playing a game.

Nancy-Ann and I frequently play a game called Wordscape. It involves using a set of 6 or 7 letters that are given at the start of each round, and vary from one round to the next. The goal is to use the letters to make words to fill in a crossword grid. When the grid is filled with all the right words, points are earned, and the next round provides another set of letters with a different grid. After each round, the points gradually accumulate. We have done pretty well, and have collected a large number of points. If we have a hard time guessing the words, we can use some of our points to get clues. The problem is that we don't like using our points. We would rather keep them.

Thinking about this, it occurred to me that our not wanting to use our points was similar to people, or governments, or businesses, that have money and want to keep it, or not use it frivolously. One example is governments that sometimes have problems with the growing numbers of homeless. Some view it as a problem that was created by the homeless, rather than from some other cause that made the people homeless in the first place. How to deal with the problem is a tough decision. Some towns have struggled with it and finally decided to provide housing for the homeless. In at least one town, providing shelter for the homeless actually reduced the town's overall expenses for such things as policing, clean-up, etc.

Another thing I thought about with the game is that occasionally using points allows us to proceed to the next rounds and earn more points. From that perspective, using points can be considered an investment rather than an expense. The same could be said about providing help to people who are struggling with problems. The money spent to help them get their lives stabilized and become productive member of society might also be considered as an investment rather than an expense.

Dick Feren

Laundry Love Thanks

We are ever grateful to all our Grace Episcopal Church Laundry Love Volunteers.

We want to give thanks for the outstanding job our volunteers did on Tuesday, November 5th. We succeeded and this was because of all of you, doing God's work by taking care of his people in need who

were doing their laundry. You are all fabulous, beautiful, and fantastic. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks to our November Laundry Love crew: Bill Bochinski, Tom Stevens, Dwight Simmons, Linda Heath, Mary E. Atwell, Tommy Suckley Jr, Christine and Mark Anderson - our incredible "Soap Guy." Special thanks to Bruce



Mackay for driving up from St. Peters Episcopal Church to help us out. It was the busiest night ever for Laundry Love. Unbelievable!

Great job to you and all our donors who help us do this great Ministry. God Bless you all.

In God's Peace and Love....Hank Gagnon and Brian Guimond

Grace Campus Fall Clean Up Thanks

Thank you to all those who gathered on the morning of Saturday, November 16th for our annual, outdoor Fall cleanup day. Our campus looks beautiful because of all of you!



Advent Party Invitation

Andrew Freshour, Marcus Forand and Cody Carlson, along with the Hospitality Committee invite you to an Advent Party.

DATE: Saturday December 7 from 6:30-11pm.

WHERE: At Andy, Marcus and Cody's home on the corner
of Brook and Walnut St. in Manchester
Finger foods are welcome!

Annual Service of Lesson and Carols


On December 15, Sunday afternoon at 4:30 pm, Grace Episcopal Church of 105 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH, will offer its annual service of Lessons and Carols; a service of Old and New Testament readings, prayers, carols and choir anthems and organ music in preparation and celebration of the Feast of Christmas.

The service is ordered after a Festival of Nine lessons and Carols, first designed in 1880, by E. W. Benson, the Bishop of Truro and later Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, for a Christmas Eve celebration in a wooden shed which then served as his cathedral. Subsequently in 1918, the Dean of King's College, Cambridge University, Eric Milner-White, former army chaplain, convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship experiences, revised the service. These Lessons and Carols, offered by King's College Choir, has retained its essential order of readings and prayers since 1918. In 1928, BBC broadcast the service for the first time, and except in 1930, has annually broadcast Lessons and Carols from King's College.

The Lessons and Carols service at Grace Church, on December 15, will offer seven Lessons, and will include familiar Christmas carols, such as "Once in royal David's city", "Away in a manger", "We three Kings" and "The first Nowell". Additionally, the Grace Church Choir, Mark Cleveland, Director, will offer choral selections, including Victoria's masterwork, "O magnum mysterium", as well as arrangements of familiar Christmas carols and texts; John Rutter's "Nativity Carol", Frank Ferko's setting of the 15th century text, "Adam lay ybounden" and an exquisite setting of Christina Rossetti's classic Christmas poem, "In the bleak midwinter" by Crawford Thoburn. Grace Church organist, Kenneth Grinnell, will

present music by Marcel Dupré, “Variations on a Noël” during the Prelude and Postlude and Brahms’ “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” as a response to Lesson 4, from the Gospel of St. Luke, *The birth of Jesus*.

The public is cordially invited to join in this Christmas celebration and to observe the, “. . . loving purposes of God. . .” seen “through the windows and words of the Bible”. E. Milner-White Dean, King’s College, Cambridge.



**GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

Presents

A FESTIVAL OF
**LESSONS
AND
CAROLS**

Sunday, December 15
4:30 pm

Featuring:
The Grace Church Choir
Directed by:
Mark Andrew Cleveland
Organist:
Kenneth Grinnell

106 Lowell Street
www.gracechurchmanchester.org
Info: Tel (603) 622-9813

A Note From Stewardship

Thank you to all those who have returned their 2020 pledge forms. If you have not, please prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2020. Your pledge supports this beautiful building and the inspiring staff who shine the light of Jesus into our hearts within the walls of Grace Church and enables us to bring the love of Jesus beyond the walls of Grace Church into the world.

Mitten Tree News

Thank you to the members of the Outreach Committee who at our November Outreach meeting carefully constructed 129 mittens for our parish mitten tree: Gail Austin, Carolyn Richmond, Barbara Hermann, Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Nancy Ann Feren, and Linda Heath. Special thanks also to Carolyn Richmond and Dick and Nancy-Ann Feren who reached out to professional contacts at area schools and typing and organizing wish lists for mittens.

Thus far just over 50 mittens have been adopted by Grace Parishioners. Please consider taking one or more mittens off the tree and shopping for children who are part of our Manchester community.

Getting Ready for Christmas

The build up starts long before most of us have finished raking leaves. Store fronts glisten with artificially frosted window panes and trees embellished with colorful bulbs, ribbons and tinsel. Many complain bitterly that the season has become wholly commercialized; the festivities starting preposterously early. I am not persuaded. Christmas really is a big deal and preparation is everything. We are marking a moment of divine intervention into the affairs of humanity without which none of us would emerge intact. The process of ‘letting all hearts prepare him room’ requires time, reflection and honest self-appraisal. This is not an activity for the faint of heart and yet, one that is essential to life of the believer. So I smile as trucks of tightly wrapped trees pass me on the highway. I watch in delight as more and more houses in the neighborhood light up the night sky. And my prayers focus on finding and meeting the needs of the Christ child in every person I encounter.

This year, however, my response is more complicated. The festive holiday spell is broken the moment I pick up the morning paper or

listen to a breaking news report. My house smells of pine, cinnamon and nutmeg and yet - how can one be swept up in the joyous celebratory preparations while simultaneously listening to the daily news? Regardless of partisan affiliation, we are a nation bitterly and passionately divided, certainly more so than at any time in recent memory. International tyranny has displaced thousands. Poverty impacts the most vulnerable among us. The disastrous consequences of various addictions form a searing relentless drain on resources while devastating families. Climate change is no longer theoretical. The list goes on and on. Christmas? Perhaps we should skip the whole thing this year.

The Talmud reminds us poignantly: “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” This is wise counsel because it points out that while we may be momentarily disappointed, disillusioned and discouraged, we are never to give up. In fact, the older I become, the more convinced I am that despair is a sin – probably one that warranted inclusion in the list of the original deadly seven. If we are to live into our birthright as resurrection people, despair is an emotion we cannot abide. We are called to live in hope and to bring comfort and succor to all we encounter. As the Benedictines profess with their lips and in their lives, “Always, we begin again.”

The clearest example of walking confidently, relentlessly in faith comes to me from my son. His faith is simple and grounded in the rich stories of the faith that he has heard since he could speak. Good and evil are clearly recognizable. From his autistic vantagepoint, ritual is a lifeline connecting us to everything that matters. “Jesus loves me. This I know. Because the Bible tells me so.” For Tom, the only question about the realization of the kingdom of God is when. Each week as the words of the Eucharist reach a crescendo, there is a moment when the priest raises the host high overhead and glances heavenward. Each time I see Tom’s head rise, his eyes following the gesture in full expectation that one day the domed ceiling will open to reveal angels and archangels and all the company of heaven rejoicing as befits the birthday celebration of a king.

Perhaps it will happen this Christmas....

Eileen Suckley

Coffee Hour Thanks

Thank you to our Stewardship Team who hosted both Coffee hours on All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd.

Kudos to Hank Gagnon, Kurt Wicks, David Roy, Linda Lassonde, Christopher Messier, Dick Feren, and Stewardship chair Christine Anderson for your collective and incredible hospitality.



Annual Diocesan Convention News

The 217 Annual Diocesan Convention for the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire was held on Saturday, November 9th at the Waterville Valley Resort and Conference Center in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire.

Special thanks to all those who represented Grace Church at this event: The Reverends Jane Van Zandt, Allan Knight, and Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Ann Hewins, Greg Gagnon, Katie Bailey, and Shelley Kesselman



Diocesan Convention 2019

The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire gathered in beautiful Waterville Valley on November 8th and 9th for its 217th Annual Convention. Grace was represented by delegates Greg Gagnon, Ann Hewens, and Shelley Kesselman, with Jane Van Zandt, Allan Knight, and Marjorie Gerbracht also in attendance. (Old Man Winter crashed the Friday night festivities in a big way, but that's another story!)

Friday night was social time, and the Diocese hosted a pizza party at the beautiful Waterville Valley Conference Center followed by compline. It was a joyful, holy time and everyone in attendance agreed that it was the perfect way to spend a snowy evening, and set the mood for working together. The next day the conference opened with worship and Bishop Rob's address to the conference. The address (which is available on the diocesan website and is well worth a read and reflection by everyone in the diocese!) centered on how labels of "liberal" and "conservative" weren't particularly useful in terms of our common life as a church and as people of God living in the greater society, because our call is to be both. We are to be faithful to God's original vision for the world, and at the same time, partners with God in doing a new thing, forging unity rather than discord.

After the Eucharist, we proceeded to the business portion of the convention. Since the role of the diocese is to support the congregations which comprise it, there was a conversation about designation as parish or mission, and how the language of our canons could be revised in order to be less stigmatizing to missions, especially parishes who realize that they can function more effectively if they change to mission status, and can make use of the different diocesan resources and provisions available for missions, and direct their own resources, however limited for outwardly focused ministry. The consensus was that our language needed to reflect what mission status could accomplish for a struggling congregation, and not mark it as a moribund congregation for whom closure was inevitable, and the resolution to amend the language accordingly. The goal of any congregation in the Episcopal Church is to be an effective outpost for the Commonwealth of God, not to attain and maintain parish status, so the question is "what status will best empower that congregation to do its job?" Many congregations do better as missions than parishes, so the language needed to be value neutral. This resolution, passed unanimously, was followed by a

resolution for Church of the Holy Spirit in Plymouth to be redesignated as a mission instead of continuing as a parish. This resolution was also passed unanimously.

Business continued with the election of the lay and clergy deputies to General Convention, approval of a balanced budget, and several other resolutions having to do with how we operate with spiritual integrity in the context of broader issues, specifically, race and environmental issues. A resolution supported by the Reconciliation Commission was passed which provides resources for congregations to research and educate themselves about how racism has manifested in the history of the larger community. The hope is that in unveiling long hidden truths about how we have been intentionally or unintentionally complicit in racial injustice, we can better identify ways to atone for this complicity and go forward in holier, healthier ways with our sisters and brothers of color. Another resolution centered on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day was passed. Calling our congregations to be more intentionally focused on care and concern for the earth, it invites congregations to focus on care for the Earth as part of the Easter Season, through liturgy, activities, education, and adopting “greener” practices in the ordering of congregational life. A related but separate resolution was passed for reducing the carbon footprints of our congregations by 25% by 2025, and 50% by 2035. Funding will be available from the diocese to offset some of the costs of the necessary energy audits, and some of the reduction measures.

A resolution calling for or support for The Episcopal Church in Cuba was also passed. TEC-Cuba is widely perceived to be a blessing in unstable political times, but many Cuban parishes struggle in the context of a shaky and isolated national economy. A reliable source of safe drinking water is an ongoing challenge. We voted to continue to partner with Episcopalians in Cuba, and explore options for utilizing the diocesan sustainable Development Goal funding program to assist with reliable water filtration systems.

Finally, courtesy resolutions extending greetings and welcome to the newly elected bishops in the neighboring states of Vermont and Maine were passed, as well as a resolution expressing greetings and appreciation to our previous bishop, The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robin-

son for his current work with a social justice think tank in Washington DC.

These are but highlights of a busy and effective convention. If you want to know more about the resolutions that were passed, or the Diocesan budget, please see the Diocesan website, or talk to one of your parish delegates. Our charge is to represent you to the Diocese, and the Diocese to you!

Shelley B. Kesselman- Parish Delegate

Grace Book Club

We had 14 people attend at our November GEC book group gathering, including Violet Frost on her one month birthday! Great people, a beautiful baby, amazing food, and a remarkable discussion about the book *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* made it a perfect gathering.



Grace Book Group will not be meeting in December. A suggestion for the New Year - join the Grace Book Group, expand your reading adventure! A wide range of books are selected for discussion - and the food is delicious! ***Please note that the meeting dates for January and February are changed due to the church office closure.***

- December - No meeting
- January 14 - *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce
- February 11 - *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom
- March 17 - *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

Important Notices from the Office

Once again we are combining the DECEMBER and JANUARY newsletters. We will keep you posted about pertinent events that may arise through congregational e-mails and our weekly Sunday bulletin,

The deadline for the February newsletter will be **January 15**. Late submissions will be held and published the following month. Please

forward submissions to gracechurchnewsletter@gmail.com. We welcome your ideas for topics of interest which might add to our church community.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following December and January birthday celebrants!

December

- 3 Castie Bailey
Livvie Dufresne
- 4 Justin Posnanski
Ann ORourke
- 5 Cheryl Thomas
- 10 Charlie Woodbury
- 11 Caroline Stenbeck
- 13 Bernie Tonnar
- 14 Miclena Linares
Gray Chynoweth
- 15 Nancy Stantial
- 16 Michelle Garneau
- 21 Kathie-Ann Day
Nancy Girgus
- 23 Liz Jestude
- 25 Kelly Farragher-Paras
- 27 Carol Cote

January

- 1 John Yen
Rebeka Beek
- 2 Charles Rousseau
- 3 Carolyn Richmond
- 9 Kaydance Lassonde
- 12 Patrick Gillick
- 14 Leona Thomas
- 16 Caroline Wyatt
- 18 Ken Porter
- 20 Ulla Damon
- 24 Betty Arel
Brooks Stantial
- 25 Hank Gagnon
- 27 Linda Jacobson
- 28 Mary Blevens
- 29 Nancy-Ann Feren
Charles White
- 30 Melissa Roy
James Fox

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.

Our Newest Parishioner!

We give thanks for the successful arrival of our newest parishioner sent from heaven, Violet Anne Frost. Born October 19th, 2019. Weighing in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces with a length of 19 inches. Sister Emma Victoria, parents Matthew and Charity Frost, and grandparents Eddy and Linda Frost are thrilled you are here!



Holiday Office Schedule

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's (December 20 – January 1). It will reopen on Thursday January 2. Sunday School will resume on January 5.

Christmas and Advent at Grace Church

Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 15th 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve:

Children's Service, 4 pm (bring bells)
Sacred Concert, 7:30 pm/Choral Eucharist, 8 pm
Silent Night (with incense) 11 pm

Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist, 9 am

First Sunday after Christmas, December 29

Christmas Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist
ONE SERVICE, 9 am

Annual Meeting, election of officers and Brunch

Sunday January 26, 2019
ONE SERVICE -9 am

Vestry Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Excused in advance: Linda Heath (present), Nancy Johnson, Eileen Suckley, Matthew Serge

Present – Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Linda Heath, Chris Turner, Meghann White, Gail Austin, Valerie Anderson, Ken Kjellander, Hank Gagnon, Christopher Messier, Amy Brumfield, David Roy
Absent – Carol Cote

1. Opening Prayer – at 7:01 by Reverend Marjorie
 2. Reading of the Norms
 - Appoint Amy as Clerk Pro Tem – motion - Linda, Second - Meghann, vote - passed.
 - Reading of Thank you note from Marlene (19 years of service)
 3. Consent Agenda
- Motion to accept with correction as below– Hank, second – Chris-

topher Messier, vote - passed

- present - Clerk's Report (September 18, 2019)
- present - Rector's Report (September/October 2019)
- present - Planning and Finance (October 9, 2019)
- correction: need to change –
- revisit salary – is revisit status/exempt/nonexempt, and
- tracking of hours – not determined yet – HR meeting on Friday
- discussion about the paying of note taking to stop. (vote to come)
- present - Kitchen Meeting (October 6, 2019)
- present - Outreach (September 25, 2019)
- Stewardship
- Hospitality
- Property
- present Publicity (October 6, 2019)

4. Financial Business / Treasurer's Report

- September financials – motion – Valerie, second - Ken, vote - passed
 - contribution statements going out this week listing pledges and contributions for church and capital campaign
 - balance sheet shows we are 17,977 negative – but drawing from other subaccounts. This is cumulative of years of loss in P&L – balances for March, June, but not Sept – due primarily to the Endowment draws.
- Draft 2020 Budget
 - Diocesan Fair Share Support decreased from 15.5% to 15%
 - Homework – look at suggested additions and work back to see if money needs to be added to budget.
 - We have been looking at/working on Authorization matrix (Wardens and Finance team)

VOTE NEEDED – \$32,000 Fire Alarm – Capital item, comes out of Property fund – (previously approved for \$22,000)

Motion – Hank, second – Valerie, Vote - passed

VOTE NEEDED – no paid note takers for church meetings –

Motion – David, second – Christopher, vote - passed

VOTE NEEDED – removal/installation of garage roof 4480 –

Motion – Linda, second – Hank, Vote – passed, is Capital item
 VOTE NEEDED – estimate for back of grace house - \$4400 (vinyl siding) vs \$7,400 (clapboard) –
 Motion – Linda for vinyl siding (can be changed to clapboard at later date), Second – Meghann, vote - passed
 AMENDMENT VOTE at Sept. meeting “to pay registration fee for 2 delegates”, is 4.
 Motion – Hank, second – Valerie, vote – passed

5. New Business

- Grant Proposal/Application Process Meghann White
 - have project/idea, amount needed/budget, information about their organization,
 - looking at multiple cycles of funding – up to twice a year – depends on fund availability
 - needs committee, Marjorie, Meghann, Nancy, Linda, David, Christopher – need at least 2 more from parish -
 - when to initiate, once out there – wait for them to come back to us, websites – for funding -nonprofits, looking at requirements, information on our website,
 - Looking to keep it in the Greater Manchester region
- Homeless/Transient Issues
 - taking at least 30 minutes cleaning up daily,
 - safe house – Fire Departments, drawing people from other cities, suburbs, and states
 - going to discuss further at Property committee meeting
- 2020 Annual Meeting Plans –
 - date – Jan 26, 2020
 - Snow date Feb 2/2/2020
 - To have those who have received Endowment money from us to give 5-7 minute discussion on how they use the money

6. Closing Prayer at 8:36.

Ok All - the numbers for the Grace house - were not the correct ones. And there is a second set of numbers for several areas around the church that need work. Thank you, Gail, for catching that.

Vote Grace option A or B and yes or no on the church repairs.

Votes needed for:

Grace House

Option A - North Side Siding \$6,880

- Remove existing wood siding
- Cover sheathing with Tyvek house wrap
- Replace with **vinyl siding** color to match existing as close as possible
- Trim false window to match others
- Scrape fascia soffit window trims and corner boards
- Prime 1 coat - Finish paint 2 coats colors to match existing

Excludes stairs, railings, posts and rot repairs Includes labor, materials and disposal

Option B - North side siding \$7,400

- Wood - Remove existing wood siding
- Cover sheathing with Tyvek house wrap
- Replace wood siding with **pine clapboards**
- Trim false window to match others
- Scrape fascia soffit window trims and corner boards
- Prime 1 coat - Finish paint 2 coats, colors to match existing

Excludes stairs, railings, posts and rot repairs Includes labor, materials and disposal

Church repairs \$4,400

- Fabricate PVC splashguard around bubbler
- Repair Pine St. door bottom and side jamb
- Paint to match existing
- Cover repair with copper kickplate
- Replace window keeper latch on vinyl window sash
- Wood and mortar repairs between church and other building
- Prime and paint finish
- Repair interior water damage in church area
- Prime and paint to match
- Adjust doors to close and latch leading to office area

Labor and materials

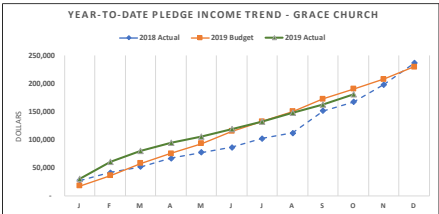
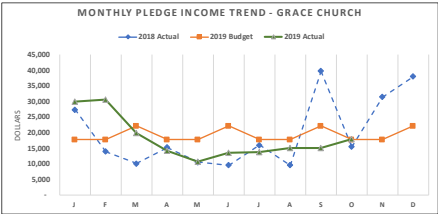
Email to vestry from Amy, Clerk pro tem

Attached are the minutes from the Vestry meeting held on October 16th.

It was discovered that an error was made on the agenda for the vestry meeting held Wednesday evening (10-16-19). Attached also is a detailed explanation of the issue. As a result we need to change item 4-g. of the votes with an E-MAIL VOTE: To rescind item 4-g in the minutes (estimate for back of grace house - \$4400 (vinyl siding) vs \$7,400 (clapboard) – Motion – Linda for vinyl siding (can be changed to clapboard at later date), Second – Meghann, vote – passed) and replace it with an **E-MAIL VOTE**: To accept the estimate for vinyl siding at a cost of \$6880.

We also need an E-MAIL VOTE : to expend \$4400 for church repairs to include the following: - Fabricate PVC splashguard around bubbler; Repair Pine St. door bottom and side jamb; Paint to match existing; Cover repair with copper kickplate; Replace window keeper latch on vinyl window sash; Wood and mortar repairs between church and other building; Prime and paint finish; Repair interior water damage in church area ; Prime and paint to match; Adjust doors to close and latch leading to office area ; Labor and materials.

Amy



Dear Parish: We appreciate your generosity in giving to Grace Episcopal Church. Your timely pledge will help us with our on-going expenses.

Grace Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector
The Reverend Mike Andres, Deacon

Vestry

Linda Heath, Warden
Amy Brumfield, 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
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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