



Grace Notes

April 2020

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





Illustration by Andrew Freshour

Table of Contents

Rector's Reflection.....	3
The Ministry of Prayer	5
Hope, Faith and Love Abide	7
A Note of Thanks	9
Thoughts and Reflections	9
Send In Your Pictures	11
Grief and Loss	11
Pancake Supper	13
COVID19 and Parish Life	13
Grace Book Group	14
COVID19 and Upcoming Events at Grace	16
Spring Potluck Dinner	16
Save the Date	16
Thank You For the Dr. Seuss Breakfast	17
Milestones	18
Godspeed and Farewell	19
Music's on the Menu	19
New Fire Alarm System	20
The Beatitudes	20
Youth Coffee Hour	21
Vestry Meeting Minutes	21
Monthly Pledge Income Trend Graphs	24

Rector's Reflection

Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place. Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern. Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another, must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise. --Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky

When I was in the First Grade my mother had all four of her children receive the measles vaccination. Despite such precautionary measures, I awoke one morning covered in spots with a high fever. I was determined to win a perfect attendance award that year for school. So I put on my grade school uniform and went out to the front porch to wait for the bus. When my mother came outside and told me to get back to bed, I began to cry and asked why. She replied, “You love your First Grade teacher, Mrs. Peltz, right? Well, if you go to school she will go to jail because you disobeyed state laws!” A bit of a white lie. Yet once my mother explained how my choice would impact another person I deeply admired I quickly went back to bed to keep another safe.

When I think of my Lord and Savior, Jesus, I often imagine him drawing close to others. Jesus in a boat with his disciples. Jesus inviting little children to sit close to him or on his lap. Jesus constantly ignoring clear social barriers that said stay away from certain types of people - lepers, women, outcasts. It's not hard to imagine Diana Ross's “Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)” as the theme song of Jesus' ministry. Jesus did reach out and touch the hands, the hearts, the lives of so many people. And we are all of us better because of that God's, honest-truth.

And yet . . . I also believe Jesus was an intelligent, mindful person. He was a man who was able to sense when it was appropriate to approach someone. But also someone who knew when it was best to hold back and keep proper “social distance,” a phrase all of us know too well these days. We missed worshipping together on Sunday, March 15th. So we did not hear together that wonderful, lengthy conversation in John's Gospel of Jesus meeting up with a Samaritan woman. The gospel tells us where they met up – a local well. The well, a place where everyone went, not just for water, but to find friends, gossip, perhaps even find a future spouse as Moses did long ago when he met his future bride, Zipporah, while she and her family were watering their flocks. But surely with Moses and Zipporah, Jesus and that nameless Samaritan woman, everyone knew gender protocol. That appropriate distance needed to be maintained between a man and a woman who were not married. No doubt Jesus kept proper, socially appropriate distance from this woman, yet still conversed and engaged so well with her that she abandoned her jug at the

well to go and tell others to come, see, meet Jesus.

Friends, this time of sheltering in and social distance is hard for all of us. That old campfire song, *“Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love”* usually translates to us going out and about and connecting with people in very physical ways. Talking head to head at coffee hour. Shaking hands and/or hugging at the peace. Spending time at 1269 or the Granite State Laundromat to love and care for others in a tender, close contact way. Yet now we embrace what our nation and doctors have told us is best. A time to restrict such contact and stay apart from others in order to keep those others safe. This is hard for all of us. Whether we are introverts or extroverts, social butterflies or wallflowers we all hunger for real, honest human contact.

We are blessed that John gave us the words Jesus and this woman spoke back and forth to one another. My favorite line in the text is this one, *“Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”* Jesus says to that woman then, to us at this moment. Now is the hour when we will not go to the usual places to worship. Sacred mountains. The temple in Jerusalem. Friends, now is the time when though we cannot go to church, we can still be Christians. We can worship beyond church walls in new ways. We can think of who needs cheering up within our communal circles. We can reach out to those in our local neighborhoods who are alone. We can take advantage of those “old school” ways of picking up a pen and paper and mailing a note to someone we treasure. We can buy take-out from local restaurants who need our financial support to stay open. Others can still know we are Christians by our love, compassion, and kindness.

In my humble opinion the best reason to be a clergy person is not to be given a position to teach others about faith. But to learn from a loving, Christ centered community about how to BE faithful.

One faithful parishioner, on March 17th on Facebook posted on her Facebook page, *“Just to remind us that we have NO control . . . it's SNOWING!”* Too true, wise one. God is in control. Not us.

A second faithful parishioner preached this through a text: *I do believe by the end of all this we will have the tagline, “how social distancing brought us closer together.”* Too true, wise one. We will grow from this time apart. We will learn new ways to love and hold each other close.

A third faithful parishioner, one of the few times I was away from home this week, left a bouquet of pussy willows on my doorstep with a bright pink ribbon tying the stems together. Too true, wise one. A new day of hope and spring will come.

I leave you with the words of the poet Laura Kelly Fanucci:

*When this is over,
May we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.*

*When this ends
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way – better
for each other
because of the world.*

With deep love and affection,
Marjorie +

The Ministry of Prayer

Since I retired in 2003 from a lifetime of active ordained ministry, most of it in the Episcopal Church, I have found a welcome home in Grace Church. One of the deep joys of my life since settling in has been my involvement in the prayer ministry. I don't remember exactly when it was first organized but I do recall that Sandi Albom, and Maryan Davis were highly involved in the beginning, and even before them was Erica MacKillop, all of whom have since moved on to other fields of service, the first two as ordained ministers. I am thankful for their knowledge,

experience, concern and commitment as well as that of the current ministers.

Prayer ministry at Grace Church, I am sure, has always been present, from the church's beginning in the mid 1800s right up to the present day. It's form and practice, no doubt, has changed over the years. The current iteration of the ministry is focused on healing, of giving support and encouragement to any who are suffering in body, soul, or spirit. It is based on the Universal Church's belief that God intends that every soul upon this earth be whole and healthy within the limits of our human nature. We, the prayer ministers activate that belief by personally offering ourselves to God praying that God will to equip us for that ministry.

There are two ways we go about this ministry. The first is the visual, on-site piece, where on most Sundays especially at the second service, prayers for healing are offered in St. Michael's Chapel during communion. The procedure for such is spelled out on the yellow laminated card on the hook at the pew entrance. The second is the Prayer List maintained and managed by Darby Thomas. The Prayer List contains the names of those who have asked for our prayers as well as those in our family, circle of friends or acquaintances that we are concerned about. Those on the list remain there for two months, unless renewed. The list is circulated monthly to the team members whose mission is to pray daily for those listed. The privacy of those we pray for is respected.

Sometimes situations arise where in the midst of everyday conversation where we (i.e. anyone, prayer team or not) might offer to keep that person and/or situation in our prayers. It can be done with sensitivity, avoiding a "look at how holy I am" kind of demeanor. What happens when we tell people we are willing to pray for them, and or to tell them that if they wish we will add their name to our parish prayer list? Early last month I received a post card from the Diocese of Maryland, the Diocese where I am canonically resident, which is a long way of saying, that my bishop, the person whom I answer to as a priest is the bishop of Maryland. The card read "Dear Allan, At our pastoral team meeting today, we lifted you up in prayer. The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen." Now what do you think that did to me? It is probably no news to some of that sometimes I get down on myself, and need to be buoyed up. In fact, I would bet that we all have moments and times like that. In addition, there is a significant portion of the population that to begin with suffers from anxiety and depression, on top

of which are all the practical challenges and griefs that are a part of everyday living. So it is potentially uplifting to get communications such as the one I received.

When I lived in Baltimore, there was a young man who was pastor of an Assembly of God (Pentecostal) Church in our neighborhood. For reasons unknown to me, he sent an open invitation to ministers of the churches in our area to come to his church for breakfast. I was the only one who showed up. From that we struck up a friendship that has carried on now for about 25 years. It is not a “palsy-walsy” sort of thing. We have not discussed theology and churchy things that much, because I know we would be in disagreement on many fronts. A number of months ago he shared on Facebook that he had prostate cancer. He was at loose ends about his medical options. I told him I would pray for him and give his name to our prayer ministry for their consideration. Eventually he announced that he would be having surgery in April. A few days ago I let him know again that I was praying for him with the April date in mind, and also that “members of our parish prayer ministry are praying for you with your upcoming surgery in mind.” His response: “Thank you so much. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate this.”

Our prayers of blessing on others especially as they struggle in some of life’s briar patches can work miracles. The essential message of our faith is that God is love. Our mission as Christians is to share the love in every way that we are able to do so. This is most certainly one of the ways. If you feel called to participate in the prayer ministry please speak to me or Darby, or Marjorie.

Fr. Allan Knight

Hope, Faith and Love Abide

Yes, you’ll read the famous quote from I Corinthians 13 and say to yourself, “They’re out of order. The greatest of these is Love, remember?” The reason for my reflection is to send some hopeful information your way when things seem so out of order in light of the global health situation.

We had hoped to present on Sunday, March 29, both at the 8:00 and 10:30 am services, some truly outstanding music featuring a young cellist, Alex Aranzabal. Alex is a freshman at Londonderry High School and is an extraordinary young talent. My wife, Nicole, and I have heard him

on two or three occasions and he is a joy to hear. I accompanied Alex during the High Holy Days at Temple Adath Yeshurun last Fall and was impressed with his maturity, musical and otherwise. Mark had planned for the Choir to do a very moving musical setting of Psalm 130 by the eminent British composer, John Rutter, and the cello part featured is essential as it underscores the choir chanting “Out of the depths have I cried to thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.” But that service is already cancelled.

For Palm Sunday, plans have been formulated for an outdoor processional at 10:15 am to precede and lead into the 10:30 service. Many people are excited about the possibility and a few 8-o’clockers have commented to me that they would even consider coming back or sticking around just for that. Our own Ed Doyle is lining up a brass quartet of students from Central High School to accompany us as we sing “All Glory, Laud and Honor” and make a short circuit around the downtown quadrangle. As I write, services on that day could be in jeopardy of being cancelled.

For Easter, we have again lined up a professional group of brass players funded by the generosity of the parish. We all know how their expertise along with the choir, children’s chimers, larger numbers in attendance and all that we do in putting on our “liturgical finest” make for a thrilling experience in worship on Easter. Who knows if even these services on our biggest day of the year, The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, might fall to concerns about prudent protection of our people from serious illness?

But, there is that thing called Hope. And it does abide with us. We will reschedule music. Events like the Corned Beef dinner, during which our adult group of Chimers were ready to make their big debut will happen again, just maybe not when the calendar tell us they should. Alex will come again some time to share his music with us. Palm Sunday and Easter will still happen in days to come, but maybe without processions and exciting music and liturgy. I often remember what I was taught in theological school: “Never forget that Easter happens fifty-two Sundays of the year. Every Sunday is a mini-feast of the Resurrection.”

So then, how can we not have Hope? The challenges we are facing may be another example of what Marjorie recently said: “We are Easter people in a Good Friday world.” But rejoice, rejoice! Faith, Hope and

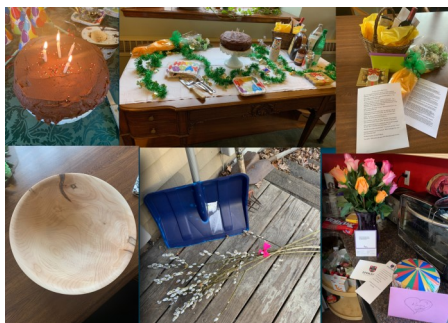
Love abide. Love may the greatest of these three, as St. Paul teaches us, but faith and hope can help propel us along the way.

Ken Grinnell

A Note of Thanks

Dear Grace Church Family,

I had been told by many in our parish I would find that turning 50 would be a wonderful sacred moment. One of you even exclaimed at coffee hour one day, "Wait and see. This will be your Jubilee year!" She was right. You blessed me with numerous cards, well wishes on Facebook, personal texts and phone calls, gifts delivered to my home of all shapes and sizes, and even a surprise birthday party and homemade cake at church for the small in number, yet mighty in spirit group that gathered for this month's GEC book group. You all adhered beautifully to social distancing practices that are against our very nature as Christians who enjoy exchanging hugs, handshakes, and kisses.



1 Peter 5:14 says this, *"Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ."* Thank you, one and all, for showing and sharing the peace and love of Christ to me with birthday well wishes. Air kisses to all of you. Your ways bring hope and faith into my heart every day.

Blessings and love,
Marjorie +

Thoughts and Reflections

Goal, Purpose, Agenda

Let's look at these three terms: goal, purpose, and agenda. Goal is usually short term and more narrow, while purpose is usually long-term and broader. A person might have a goal to collect 100 bags of groceries, but their purpose might be to start an anti-hunger program. Their agenda could be the steps needed to first reach the short

-term goal, and then to accomplish their long-term purpose. If things go well, it can all work out. But what if something interferes? Here is an example.

I am involved with the NH state science fair, which is sponsored by the NH Science and Engineering Exposition Assoc. Our purpose is to provide a venue for NH high school students to present their independent science research, and to provide an opportunity for the best to advance to the international level. Each year, our goal is to get the details organized and hold the fair. Our agenda involves a series of steps that take place over several months to inform schools, inform students, contact people to judge, and raise funds to pay for awards and cover other expenses.

We were a couple of weeks away from our goal of holding the fair when our site cancelled all events having over 100 people because of Covid-19. Our purpose hadn't changed, but this year's goal could not be reached in the usual way. We now had to find a different way for the students to present their projects and get judged. We decided to try to find a way to do it totally electronically. That is now our immediate goal, and we are still working on it.

Now let's look at Purpose, Goals, and Agenda for Grace Church. Our purpose could be summarized by our Mission Statement, which is "To know Christ and make Christ known". We have several goals to help us accomplish our purpose, or mission. Examples include annual events such as Dr Seuss Breakfast, St Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner, and special services open to people both inside and outside our parish. Other examples are more frequent, such as New Horizons and Laundry Love. Another is simply holding weekly services. Each of the goals has its own agenda.

Some of our Grace Church goals, which we have come to view as routine, have now been affected by the Covid-19 and have to change or be cancelled. But I don't see those changes as affecting our purpose or mission. We can still know Christ and make Christ known. It just might be a bit more challenging, but I think we are up to that.

Dick Feren

Send In Your Pictures

All of us are finding new ways to work and stay busy at home. If you have a great picture of you and your family you are willing to share with our wider church family through e-mail of what you are doing at home (work, games, on line learning) please send your picture to our rector or the newsletter: Gracechurchnewsletter@gmail.com.



Much love,
Reverend Marjorie, Zach, and Peppa Pug

Grief and Loss

Not a very uplifting title, is it? But, that's what I'm feeling these days.

I've joined a support group at Christ Church in Andover, MA. The impetus for that is anticipatory grief for the impending loss of my dear friend Kim. After multiple surgeries, she is undergoing her 7th round of yet a different kind of chemo. I drove to Baltimore last July, and again in December to spend time with her. I can't go now; she is immunocompromised. So, no visit, no hugs. Maybe never again. That makes me profoundly sad.

I already miss being at church, and singing in the choir, though it has been only one Sunday at this point. Watching the live stream from the

Washington Cathedral helped, but it definitely was not the same as being there. The loss of corporate worship will become more difficult, as time goes on.

The death of our beloved retired Suffragan Bishop, Barbara Harris, this past Friday hit hard. Even at age 89, it seemed as though she would go on being an outspoken force to be reckoned with forever. I remember having a communion station at her consecration in Boston in 1989. There were loud verbal protests during the service, but after they were acknowledged by the Presiding Bishop, the service moved ahead peacefully. The days and weeks after her consecration were not without fear. She wanted no part of a bullet-proof vest, or Boston police, or bodyguards (though at least one friend watched out for her faithfully, despite her protests). She knew there was work to be done, and she was not about to stop following Jesus.

I had met her previously in 1979, when I worked at General Convention in Denver. We frequently staffed the same booth in the exhibit hall, which meant long conversations about the injustices in the world. We were on the same side of the issues being discussed at convention. I believe that, at the time, she was the editor of *The Witness* magazine, which was the voice for justice in the Episcopal Church. Barbara had no patience with the discrimination being shown to LGBT folks, people of color, women, the poor, and anyone else being hurt by some segments of society.

Even as I grieve now, I know that I have work to do. Barbara led the way that Jesus showed, and I, too, must follow. Kim is as Christ-like as a human can be. Both women are concrete examples of Jesus' hands in the world today.

Despite the hate we hear, day after day, love will still win. Back in 2009, Barbara told the *Boston Globe*, "Nobody can hate like Christians". I believe that it is up to each of us to reclaim the title "Christian", loving and accepting our neighbors. One of our baptismal vows asks, "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?", to which we reply, "I will, with God's help". May that be our prayer.

Jane W Van Zandt +

Pancake Supper

We are grateful for the leadership of so many who made our Pancake Supper the most successful it has been in recent years with 46 people in attendance. Special thanks to those in the center of this collage, without whom such an amazing feast would not have happened. From left to right: Susan and Bernie Tonnar, Bruce Thomas, David Kjellander, Michael Duffy, Cody Carlson, Andrew Freshour, Marcus Forand, and Christopher Messier.



COVID19 and Parish Life

Friends,

I hope that each of you and your families are healthy. Many events in the community have been cancelled as precaution to the spread of this particular coronavirus and the disease it causes - Covid-19. (The number stands for the 2019, the year it emerged). Each of us makes the decision on a daily, even hourly, basis as to how to keep ourselves and loved ones safe. Many factors go into making these difficult decisions. I believe that we should follow what we believe is best for us and our loved ones, while at the same time respecting the

decision of others, even if it is not the path we chose for ourselves.

Some of us chose to attend this month's Grace Church book group and shared a discussion of the young adult novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. One member even attended by phone, while others chose to stay home. All great choices. Rest assured our parish leaders are working to figure out how future meetings, like our parish book group, can be teleconferenced from now.

Please remember - there are more viruses on this planet than there are stars in the known universe. Humans have faced many diseases and conquered them - polio, measles, small pox, etc. I believe that as a community and nation we will come out of this current health crisis stronger and much more knowledgeable about how to ensure that our government and health resource centers have adequate resources to quickly address any virus and how to best protect ourselves, family and community.

Some suggestions on boosting your immune system are:

- Keep your stress level down. If that means self-isolating at home then that is best for you. If it means connecting with folks in small groups, then follow common sense communication (no hugging, thoroughly washing hands, etc.)
- Exercise - a walk outside is better than binge watching your favorite TV show.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Are your vaccines up-to-date?
- Eat plenty of plain yogurt and boost your probiotics. This helps boost your microbiome and supports the good bacteria in your gut which is a virus fighter
- Eat healthy & drink plenty of water. (Sources for information from CDC, and the Wall Street Journal).

May the best luck of the Irish be with you now and always,
Chris Stevens

Grace Book Group

Grace Book Group welcomes all readers to bring your lunch and join the book discussion, share experiences, observations and opinions on a wide variety of books. The group meets once a month, noon in the Parish Library. This Spring the following books will be the topics of discussion:

- April 21 - *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- May 20 - *Not Your Average Traveler, 40 Years of Adventure in All the U.S. National Parks* by Nancy-Ann Feren *** Please note: The group will meet at The Bookery, 844 Elm Street at noon. The Cafe will be opened.
- June 16 - *Olive Ketteridge* by Elizabeth Strout

We hope you will join this fun, relaxing gathering.

Chris Stevens



Pictured above: March Book Club Meeting also celebrating Marjorie's Birthday and observing social distancing

COVID19 and Upcoming Events at Grace

We want all of our parish family to stay safe by doing as our government officials suggest and sheltering in until a time when we have been directed it is appropriate to venture out and physically connect. We hope and pray parish events such as our outreach sponsored, special guest preacher, our Three Graces concert, and our May potluck supper will happen on schedule. But these gatherings may have to be rescheduled.

Please keep an eye out every week for a parish e-blast that will help to keep us all connected and update you on our worship and gathering plans via on line connection.

Spring Potluck Dinner

The Hospitality Committee is looking forward to spring and some wonderful music by the Flute Choir directed by Aubrey Dione. This will be our last Hospitality Committee sponsored event of the year. We hope you will join us for a wonderful evening of music, worship, food, and fellowship. We will start our evening in the courtyard in front of the church for music followed by Evening Prayer in the church. We will then have a potluck dinner in the Great Hall. There will be a sign up sheet on the kiosk to sign up to bring your favorite food and to allow us to plan for how many people will attend.

When: Saturday, May 16, 2020

Plan: 5:00 - 5:30 Music in the Courtyard

5:30 - 6:00 Evening Prayer in the Church

6:00 - Dinner begins

We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event.

Teddi McIntosh

Save the Date—May 3, 2020

On May 3, Jasmine Grace Fiandaca will be preaching at both the 8 and 10:30 services. For more than five years Jasmine was a victim of sex trafficking throughout New England. After several attempts, she managed to escape from her trafficker but fell back into drug addiction and homelessness. She has been sober since 2007 and is constantly working on her recovery. She has written a book, *The Diary of Jasmine Grace*, and has founded a charity called Bags of Hope Ministries which provides care bags with items like soap,

shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and notes of encouragement for women who are victims of drug addiction homelessness, and trafficking.

The wish list for the Bags:

Cute pairs of women's socks

Tampons

Deodorant

Toothpaste and toothbrush

12 oz conditioner and 12 oz. Shampoo

Small bag of trail mix

Chapstick

Nail polish

Small package of baby wipes

Hair brush and/or elastics

Notes of encouragement

We don't want to have too many of any one item and not enough of another so please let Marlene in the parish office or Nancy-Ann Feren know what you will contribute from this list.

The Outreach Committee hopes, with the help of Grace Church parishioners, to fill 20 bags between the two services on May 3 and raise additional funds. We are waiting for details from Jasmine and will let you know by email how we will coordinate collections.

Jasmine's story is a powerful one. Those of us who heard her speak at the Manchester Interfaith Women's meeting last year were moved by her presentation and are sure you will be too.

Nancy-Ann Feren

Thank You For the Dr. Seuss Breakfast

The Outreach Committee sends a huge thank you to all of you who offered your time, talent, and treasure to make the 15th Annual Dr. Seuss Breakfast our most successful yet. We served breakfast to 143 guests.

The Cat in the Hat (a.k.a our own Lauren Cline) mingled with all the children and read stories. The many artistic endeavors included face painting, Dr. Seuss hats, and a variety of other crafts. Eleven students from the Central High Art Department joined Grace Church parish-

ioners 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.

Nancy-Ann Feren



Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following April birthday celebrants!

1	Ian Matera	16	Samuel Thomas
3	Jok Leek		Sam Rousseau
4	Bob Bell	17	Jane Van Zandt
	Edward High		Anay Leek
12	Mark Thomas	18	Tom Suckley
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.

Godspeed and Farewell

We bid Godspeed and farewell to parishioners Fred Sanborn and Lori Ouellette who are moving down south to a warmer climate. Please think of sending them your love via a card or note through the post office.

Their new address is:

Fred Sanborn & Lori Ouellette
7324 Royal Crest Dr
Ellenton Florida 34222



Visit the new home, O Lord, of Lori and Fred with the gladness of your presence. Bless them in their settling into new life and community, and grant that they may continue to grow in love and forgiveness. Guard and guide them — and preserve them in peace. In Christ's most holy name. Amen.

Music's on the Menu

Be sure to SAVE THE DATE of Wednesday, April 22nd to attend our noon day, Music's on the Menu offering at Grace Episcopal Church. The power of our three, amazing music ministers - Carter Beck, Kenneth Grinnell, and Mark Cleveland will perform together

in a not to be missed concert titled "A Spring Potpourri."



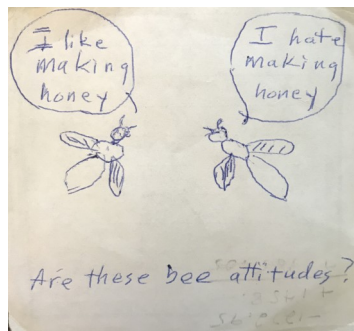
New Fire Alarm System

Did you know that this past week workers have been busy installing a brand new fire alarm system across our parish campus? Special thanks to parishioner Gary York who helped bring all of this to pass well ahead of the January, 2021 deadline that the Manchester Fire Department had given us.



The Beatitudes

It is always good to hand off a cartoon to the rector after church . . . Penned by Dick Feren



Youth Coffee Hour

We continue to give thanks to our young people who lead and serve us through the ministry of Coffee Hour. Thank you to all those who fed us and cared for us on Sunday, March 1st, 2020.



Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Present: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, David Roy, Gail Schuman, Matthew Serge, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, 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.

Since this was the first meeting for the new Vestry members, we had a “connection exercise”. We each were asked to bring in an object that

represented a moment, belief, hobby, etc. that meant something to us. We then had to pair each object with a Vestry member. It was quite interesting to hear why each object had been brought in.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Hank, seconded by Matt, and was carried. The reports included are Clerk's, Rector's, Planning & Finance, Hospitality, Outreach, Endowment, and Annual Meeting Minutes.

Gail A reminded us that we had accepted the December financials provisionally. She presented the updated December financial reflecting the final endowment fund investment market value.

VOTE: A motion to accept the updated December financials was made by Christopher and seconded by Ken. The motion carried.

Gail then went over the January financials. She noted that January looks very favorable because it includes any donations and/or prepayments received by mail in the last two weeks of December. She noted that the utilities and office equipment expenses were high.

VOTE: A motion was made by Gail S, seconded by Carol to approve the January Financial Report. The motion carried.

The Vestry reviewed a draft of the "Cash Management Policy".

VOTE: A motion to approve and adopt the "Cash Management Policy" was made by Hank, seconded by Valerie and was carried.

We have four occasional contractors: Nursery, Assistant Office Administrator, Grace House Administrator, Sub for Sexton whose total incomes are around \$7000.

VOTE: A motion was made to approve a 1% COLA increase for the occasional contractors was made by Valerie and seconded by Teddi and was carried.

Gail A said that she would be happy to "tutor" anyone to go through the financial statements. She also reported that the annual draw from the endowment fund would be \$121302 this year. The budgeted amount has been \$119248 and the draw for 2019 was \$110657.

The Outreach Committee has asked if each of the Vestry members are

willing to take on one homebound individual to connect with via either notes and/or phone calls on a monthly basis. All were amenable to this request. A list will be brought to the next Vestry meeting.

Chris will be leaving the Planning and Finance Committee and joining the Property Committee.

VOTE: Gail S made a motion to appoint Assistant Treasurer David Roy and Assistant Clerk (when needed) Eileen Suckley. Hank seconded the motion and the Vestry passed the motion.

VOTE: A motion to approve the license renewals of Greg Gagnon, Andrew Freshour, Brian Guimond, and Dwight Simmons as Eucharistic Ministers; Greg Gagnon as Eucharistic Visitor; Dwight Simmons as Worship Leader was made by Hank, seconded by Gail S and was carried.

VOTE: A motion to approve Christopher Messier to replace Linda Heath as authorized signer was made by Valerie, seconded by Meghann, and was carried.

Rev. Marjorie went over the Parochial Report. There were a number of corrections in the Vestry members' information.

VOTE: A motion was made to accept the Parochial Report with the corrections needed was made by Gail S, seconded by Christopher, and was carried.

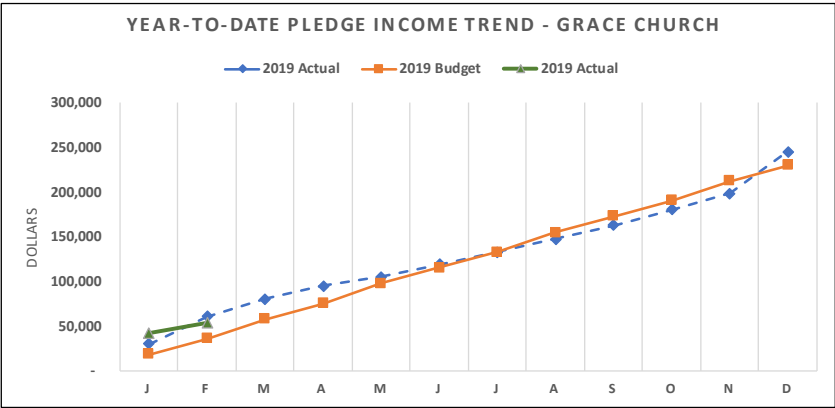
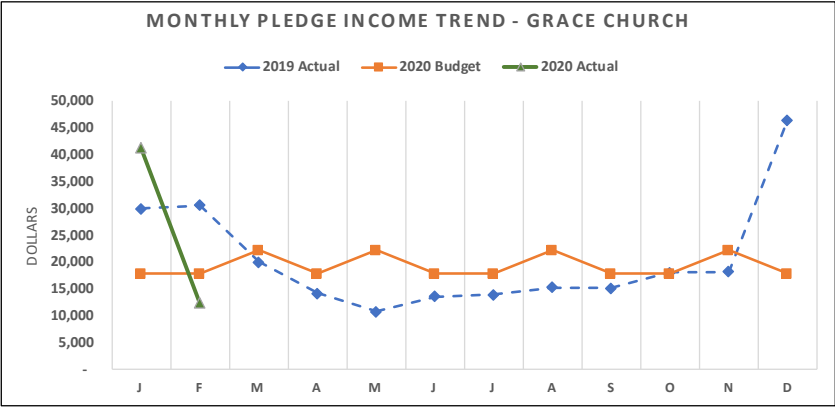
Rev. Marjorie reported that the Diocese has designated next Sunday as Vitality Sunday. She was instructed in lieu of a sermon to use the time to read a letter from the bishop and then pass out a questionnaire to the parishioners to complete.

VOTE: A motion was made to approve the license of Julie Scala as Eucharistic Minister was made by Chris, seconded by Gail. The motion carried.

The next Vestry meeting will be March 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk



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

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

Amy Brumfield, Warden
Christopher Messier, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Gail Austin, Treasurer
David Roy, Assistant Treasurer

Valerie Anderson, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Ken Kjellander,
Teddi McIntosh, Matthew Serge, Gail Schuman,
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 Freethey, Sexton
Susan Senneville, Nursery Care Giver
Ann Hewins, Grace House Manager

Newsletter

Kersten Matera
gracechurchnewsletter@gmail.com

Cover Illustration

Andrew Freshour

Next Newsletter Deadline

April 15, 2020