



# Grace Notes

## June 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

Not many people know my original career dream as a child was to be an epidemiologist, aka, a disease detective. For two years straight, Grades 6 to 8, I read books centered on one topic: the Black Death. The subject fascinated me on a number of levels. From learning how the plague spread (from infected fleas to rats to people) to examining the unique, bird shaped masks doctors believed would protect them from what they thought (they were wrong) spread the plague: miasma or "infected air." The first term paper I ever wrote, the first trophy I ever won at a science fair, was all because of my tween fascination with a plague that not only impacted Europe medically, but socially, emotionally, and spiritually.



One of the best documents ever written during a time of pandemic (which made me, after reading it, want to become a pastor) was an open letter penned by the theologian Martin Luther titled "Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague." Luther wrote the document in 1527, a few months after the plague had begun sweeping across Europe. At the time society was deeply divided and polarized (sound familiar?) because of the Protestant Reformation. Catholics blamed Protestants for the onset of the plague, while Protestants blamed the Catholics. Everyone was anxious. Pointing fingers at each other at a time when it would have been better for believers to embrace a single commandment: love one another.

It is incredibly hard to love right now in the patterns we have embraced, some of us, for decades. We are used to showing our love for God by going to church. We are used to showing our love for art by going to local classes at the Currier Art Center. We are used to showing our love for organizations by gathering at large social fundraisers. We are used to showing our love for football by sitting shoulder to shoulder in a stadium. We are used to showing our love to others with handshakes, hugs, and time together in close proximity at parties and coffee hour. We miss these patterns of showing our love. We long to return to those ways right now.

But in the midst of all that longing, let us remember the guidance Martin Luther gave his people long ago:

*I shall avoid persons and places where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not*

*responsible for either my own death or the death of others.*

I am so grateful for the MANY people in our parish who are on the front lines of this pandemic: grocery store workers, doctors, mental health professionals, nurses, bank workers, hospital administrators, truck drivers. This list of essential workers goes on and on. But I am equally grateful for all those of us who “avoid persons and places where their presence is not needed.” Those who love others simply by staying home to tap down the spread of COVID.

We, your clergy, staff, and Vestry, with the bishop’s leadership and our collective wisdom, will do our best, when the time is right, to reopen our doors so that our worship time gifts people peace. When that will be, I do not know. Yet as summer begins and shelter in place patterns continue, I pray God will guide our hearts as we continue to love one another in new and inventive ways.

Missing you all,  
Marjorie +

## Thoughts on These Times

The other day as I sifted through my collection of photos and mementos dating back to my teens, I came across a card that caused me to howl with laughter, an unusual event for one who is ordinarily given to quiet, subdued, expressions of feeling. Normally I am not given to collecting greeting cards. I had forgotten that I had kept it. The card was from two women who operated my alma mater’s bookstore where, as a student, I was employed part time.

It came as a congratulatory recognition of my graduation. Page one read, “Some have it, and some don’t.” Inside it continued, “what are you going to do with it now that you’ve got it?” It was signed, “Good luck, Lightning.” From Sue and Gwen. Those two knew that I was not sure about what I was going to do come Fall. Seminary or something else? There was nothing humorous about that, only anxiety. It was that they called me, “Lightning.” That was totally not me. But it conveyed a ton of love and affection.



For most, if not all, the days that we live in are so different from anything we have experienced before. For me personally, one who has been in retirement for a number of years, I see in these days ample opportunity to deal with “things left undone.” There are to behold many and varied undeveloped fruits of personal procrastination. By paying more attention to these figurative gardens and orchards of my life, I am able to claim victory here and there, yet it feels not so good as I thought it might at the outset. Doing is

not the same as being. I am depressed. Zoom helps, but only to a degree. Close-up connectedness, for most of us, is essential to our well-being. Sensory deprivation such as that experienced both by political prisoners and criminals in social isolation can be devastating. That may well be a piece of the current experience for many of us.

The truth is that we are sustained in this world by love. The love and affection of others matters. It is a piece of the eternal, helping us to understand on several levels what lies at the heart of the universe. I am fascinated by the men and women of the middle ages who became anchorites, who for the sake of their devotion to Christ, withdrew from the world as much as it is possible to do so and still live a life that is physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy. In the current pandemic some of us may be experiencing something of the life of the anchorite, living in relative isolation, and depending on others in unaccustomed ways.

My hope and my prayer is that we may emerge from this troublesome time with more rather than with less. I don't mean of course, anything having to do with materialism that takes advantage of the fear so present in our midst, but appreciating more and more our personal dependence upon God and our need for the Spirit of Christ to make us whole and healthy.

Father Allan Knight

## **Grace Church Book Group**

Reading a good book is like simultaneously exercising and feeding the brain... and as Irish statesman, Edmund Burke noted, "...reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting". Join the Grace Book Group discussion and do wonderful, healthy things for yourself. The Grace Book Group gathering will meet, via Zoom every month this summer. All are invited to participate - no matter where your summer travels take you..even if it is to your backyard. Please contact the church office if you are interested in participating in the group discussion. You will receive a reminder about the gathering and information on how to join the Zoom meeting. The discussion starts at noon on the dates indicated below. The Summer/Fall book selections are:

June 16 - *Olive Kettridge* by Elizabeth Strout

July 21 - *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson

August 18 - *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

September 15 - *Educated* by Tara Westover

October 20 - *Green Dolphin Street* by Elizabeth Goudge

November 17 - *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

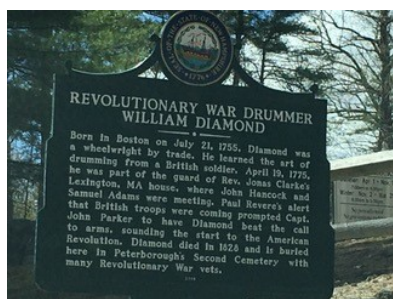
Looking forward to meeting you on Zoom this summer,  
Christine Stevens



# New Hampshire's Historical Markers

Last year Doug and I attended an OLLI presentation by Michael A. Bruno about his book *Cruising New Hampshire History*. We purchased the book, subtitled *A Guide to New Hampshire's Roadside Historical Markers* with the intention of tracking the markers down and seeing them in person.

Actually, we put the book on a shelf and got busy with life, kind of forgetting about it. Then COVID-19 hit. Our cruise to countries of the Baltic Sea was cancelled, our walking trip on the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path in England is cancelled. We were going to be home for a while. That's when we rediscovered Michael Bruno's book.

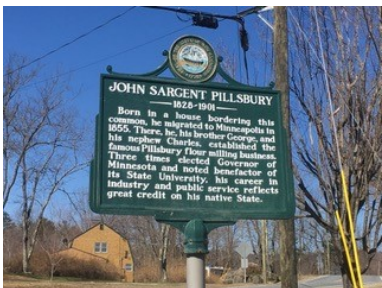


Since everything closed up we have been on 9 excursions and seen 139 markers out of 255 which are listed in the book which was published in 2016. Doug plans out routes within a certain area, we pack a lunch and head out.

We have finished the Monadnock Region and the Seacoast and we have spent an afternoon traipsing around Concord to see the ones they have. It has been quite an education.



Some favorite places were the village of Temple where we had never been and it is beautiful. It has a very old cemetery filled with Revolutionary War patriots and their wives. It's a tiny little place and it's hard to believe so many from there fought in the Revolution. We went to Washington, NH, a town I didn't even know existed before this project. In Peterborough there is another cemetery with Revolutionary War connections. It's striking how much these places probably look very much like they did when these soldiers lived there. We've seen where John Sargent Pillsbury was born and lived before he moved to Minnesota and established the Pillsbury Flour Company as well as the sweet churches and meeting houses in Bradford and Westmoreland, the





granite arched bridges built with no mortar and still standing and still in use! More favorites are markers for Revolutionary War Drummers and the last New Hampshire Man of the Revolution, Samuel Downing. Old mills, the oldest one in Jaffrey, a marker for Sarah Josepha Buell Hale in Newport. Mrs. Hale penned *Mary Had a Little Lamb* and was an important advocate for higher education for women, helping to found Vassar College.

You can see I could go on and on. We are really enjoying these excursions and I am learning so much. Maybe I've inspired you to check out the book and maybe try to find some of the markers.

(Above is the Greenfield Meeting House. It was built 1795-1799 and it is believed to be the oldest still used for both religious and secular purposes, hosting both church and town functions.)

Linda Chamberlain

## **Excerpt from upcoming novel entitled *A Very Ordinary Life***

A rapping like the tapping of a stick on wood caught her attention. Four wild turkeys emerged from the forested edge of the lawn. Six young chicks trotted eagerly among them, clearly awaiting a breakfast treat. Hannah glanced toward the cottage beyond. How she missed her old neighbor and friend, overwhelmed by the dreaded virus that threatened them all. How many mornings had they walked the property line together, inspecting the hives they shared as indeed they had shared the minutiae of their lives? The absence of her old friend still cut sharply. 'How is it', she mused, 'that grief which numbs initially, quickly heightens one's awareness and posed the essential life questions of purpose and loss in the unyielding glare of one's own mortality?' Telling the bees had been a necessary and sacred responsibility and Hannah had executed it with sadness and dignity. Thankfully the bees had remained in place and the calm steady hum with which they continued their work was oddly comforting. The questions she continued to ponder, digging into layers of meaning with her mind as her trowel cut through striations of earth.

'In some ways, the quarantined state suits me', Hannah thought. 'I don't have to deal with the well intentioned condolences of others.' But a crushing sadness had threatened to overwhelm her. Gradually even the most mundane chores be-



came overwhelming. Quite by accident, an unexpected crash saved her sanity. An overcrowded book shelf broke under the excess weight, catapulting two dozen books into a dusty heap on the floor. On top was a thick historical treatment of the monastic Benedictine Rule and another on beekeeping. As she picked up the lighter volume, a small envelope fell out. She recognized the writing at once. The card had accompanied the book, a gift from her old friend. It read “The bees go about their work, impervious to distraction or impediment. So too must we let nothing separate us from our work: to love God with all our heart, mind and soul, withholding nothing.”

So it was that Hannah began to reorganize her life, only slightly varying the ancient pattern of humility, work and study marked at regular intervals by prayer. At first the practice felt contrived, but as one day followed another, she found herself breathing easier, noticing changes in light and shade, reveling in the unfolding blossoms she tended, filled with a peace that had seemed so elusive earlier. ‘Garden work is so rife with metaphors one hardly knows where to begin’ she mused. ‘What will remain when and if the crisis abates? Will this mindfulness gradually wane and the old soul chilling habits of success-defining efficiency reassert themselves? Not for me, I think.’ The thought of returning to the old fragmented normalcy seemed appalling. She recalled a line from Sister Joan Chichester. “We are each called to go through life reclaiming the planet an inch at a time until the Garden of Eden grows green again.” Perhaps that will be one of the abiding ironies of the pandemic,’ she thought. ‘In the midst of peril and isolation, we were able to reclaim our humanity, renew our connection to God and each other, one inch, one breath at a time.’

Eileen Suckley

## **Anchored In Hope**

Hello Grace Church family, Terry Everett here! I wanted to send along a quick note to thank Grace Church parishioners and friends for their support of Anchored In Hope. Many of your generous donations have been brought to the camps down by the Armory in Manchester. To say these folks are grateful for the donations is an understatement. Please take a minute to visit and Anchored In Hope's Facebook page and check out our Amazon wish list if you are so inclined. God Bless and stay well. I miss your faces!



Gratefully,  
Terry Everett



## This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home

As some of you know, I am a member of the Earth Care Commission for the diocese. This Spring, we put together a resource for individuals and families to celebrate creation each week from Easter Sunday, through Pentecost. You may sign up to receive this email each Sunday by following these instructions. Click on:



The diocesan website.....Menu (iPhone)  
....Living Our Beliefs....Earth  
Care Commission....April 22, 2020 Earth  
Day's 50th Anniversary.

Click “here” to sign up, and below that are the links for past emails. I discovered that when I use my phone, I did have the extra “menu” step; on my computer, I didn’t.

The resources include prayers, hymns/music, personal stories, and activities. The activities were modified a bit, after COVID-19 became a reality.

At this writing, it has been more than eight weeks of home confinement, mandatory six feet apart when in public, and wearing masks outside; and the disappointment of cancelled classes, appointments, and meetings. The statistics we are given of cases and deaths, are only those who have tested positive; the true numbers are many times higher.

I don’t practice social distancing; in fact, I am more social now than I have ever been. Zoom, email, snail mail, and telephone have all increased since the virus changed our lives.

*Physical* distancing is another story. My Sunday excursion to Hannaford is an experience. At 7 AM, we line up outside, masks on, six feet apart. Inside, we use the towels and spray to wipe the cart down, then head down the aisles, being mindful of the one-way signs. Each week, different shelves are bare. Could be no eggs that week, or no bread, or creamer, or lettuce. Harriet, the cashier, wears a mask, and there is a plexiglass partition to protect her. I bring my big green plastic bin that I bought in Ontario to put the groceries in. It fits nicely in the cart. No plastic bags for me.

Some positive things have happened during the pandemic. I get out and walk every day. Driving, I never noticed the tiny blue flowers by the side of the road. (I also didn’t see how much trash there actually is, nor did I ever notice the stop sign at the end.) I never smell exhaust from vehicles –

only hay, or a neighbor grilling dinner outside. On the warm days, Zippy and I can sit on our screened-in porch. She's an indoor cat so she's safe there. The mother bear and her three cubs were seen in a backyard not far from where we live.

With the virus taking up most of the news, we need to be aware of other issues that we don't hear about. Protections for our national monuments and parks are being stripped away. Drilling for fossil fuel on federal lands accounts for a quarter of our greenhouse gas emissions. The phase-out of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on wildlife refuges has been repealed. Several organizations can help us to be well informed: the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and National Wildlife Federation are a few. Perhaps our new way of life will continue to mean a reduction in air and water pollution.

Be outdoors if you can, be in contact with friends and family, and check on folks who live alone and may be at risk.

Our prayer book calls us to pray that all people may have food and drink and other necessities of life, to respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come.

Jane W Van Zandt+

## **Messiah Sing at Home**

Marjorie received this wonderful email from Carole Blenkinsop, a former parishioner of Grace Church who relocated to Portsmouth. All of us miss being together and singing together, so her message of uniting with singers around the world on May 31st, on Pentecost, hopefully will bring joy to us all.

Dear Grace Church Family,

Many of you may already know that The Messiah is being performed on YouTube on May 31st by singers around the world. My brother in England is taking part in it and sent me the link: [www.theselfisolationchoir.com](http://www.theselfisolationchoir.com) Apparently everyone who has been a part of it is practicing and will appear in at least one chorus. I thought I would share this news with you just in case you had not heard about it. My brother says there are a few people from New Hampshire taking part. There is a five hour time change so it should be on at 2:30 PM our time.

I hope you are all doing well and keeping fit.

Love,  
Carole Blenkinsop



SELF-ISOLATION

CHOIR

*presents*

# MESSIAH AT HOME

*in association with ChoraLine*

A new, complete and totally unique version  
broadcasting exclusively on [www.theselfisolationchoir.com](http://www.theselfisolationchoir.com)

**Sunday 31st May 7:30pm BST**

Performed from isolation by voices from the  
3,600 strong choir and baroque orchestra:

Musical Director & Conductor.....Ben England  
Leader.....Rebekah Durston  
Harpsichord.....Laurence Cummings  
Soprano.....Carolyn Sampson  
Mezzo Soprano.....Jennifer Johnston  
Tenor.....Alexander Sprague  
Bass.....Ashley Riches

Tickets: suggested donation of £5 to [www.justgiving.com/helpmusiciansuk](http://www.justgiving.com/helpmusiciansuk)

Please join us at our online SUMMER SCHOOL to include works by  
John Rutter, Handel, Vivaldi and more - [www.theselfisolationchoir.com](http://www.theselfisolationchoir.com)

# **You Say Relates To God And Us**

When I first heard the song *You Say* by Lauren Daigle, I was hearing it as a song of thanks to a friend for support. I was curious about the specific words, so I looked it up on the internet. The following are the words.

## ***You Say***

*I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough  
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up  
Am I more than just a song of every high and every low  
Remind me once again just who I am because I need to know  
Ooh oh*

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing  
You say I am strong when I think I am weak  
And you say I am held when I am falling short  
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours  
And I believe  
Oh I believe  
What You say of me  
I believe*

*The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me  
In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity  
Ooh oh*

*Taking all I have and now I'm laying it at Your feet  
You have every failure, God, You have every victory  
Ooh oh*

When I read all the words, I could see that it was a song of thanks to God. As I thought more, and considered my first impression of the song, I could imagine someone who is very distressed, and is trying to talk about it. A friend says something very uplifting to them and they become more positive and hopeful.

It also occurred to me that this song could be considered a way for us to think about how to do what God would like us to do. If you know someone who is stressed, then being supportive could be very important. Parts of the song might be considered as guidelines for how to do it. I especially like the first four lines of the second part, and the first two lines of the third part.

Those portions of the song describe how we might help people. Something to think about.

Dick Feren

## **My Friend Judith Esmay**

It was with sadness that I received word of the death of Judith Esmay on April 28th. Judith was a woman of many talents. She was a lawyer and served with my husband Doug on the Diocesan Committee on Canons many years ago. She was a Vestry member and Senior Warden at St. Thomas in Hanover. She was commissioned by Bishop Gene Robinson as Canon for Lay Leadership. She was a mother and grandmother. This barely scratches the surface of her busy, productive life.

Judith's greatest talent, as far as I was concerned, was her almost mythical knitting production. Not only did she knit for her children, their significant others, and her grandchildren, she ran the Prayer Shawl ministry at St. Thomas for many years. She started an annual retreat there that I attended with Karen West for a number of years. She led a half-day retreat with the Reverend Sarah Rockwell at Grace that was the inspiration for the Grace Knitting Group annual retreat. When Karen and I decided we could do a retreat at Grace she was happy to share her tips and ideas. She led a lay leadership workshop where she showed participants, including Gail Austin and myself, how knitting can be a way to show caring and can be a way to draw people in, a social endeavor.

Judith was a force. A good person who was not afraid to share her love of knitting. She was my inspiration and I considered her a friend. I'm so sorry she's gone and I so hope she knew what an impact she had on everyone who crossed paths with her, especially this knitting fanatic.

Linda Chamberlain

## **What Are Antibodies And Antibody Testing?**

### **Immunology 101**

We thought you might want to know more about some of the things we are hearing on the news practically all the time. Basically, two kinds of testing are going on right now – infection testing and antibody testing. Infection testing is used to determine if someone is currently infected with, in this case, coronavirus. It uses the secretions from a patient's throat or nose to look for the genetic material of the virus (the nasal swab test). An antibody test looks at the blood to see if a person has developed the tools, antibodies, to fight an infection (the blood prick or blood draw test).

### **What are Antibodies?**

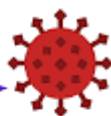
Antibodies, also called immunoglobulins, are large, Y-shaped protein structures produced mainly by our plasma cells (a type of white blood cell). They are used by the immune system to essentially “mark” the virus (or other pathogen) for destruction. The body wants to get rid of the bad guys! We do the same kind of processing against bacteria and even cancer



cells! Some of us also produce antibodies to the good guys by accident, but that is another story. People produce multiple different antibodies to the same bad guy as part of the effort to get rid of it. Different people produce different, but likely similar antibodies. People with immature immune systems (babies), compromised immune systems (patients undergoing chemotherapy, for example), and the elderly do not produce the same kind of robust response as normal people would. Antibodies to some pathogens, like smallpox, produce lifelong immunity, while others fade over time. Antibody levels in people who recovered from previous viruses, SARS and MERS – also coronaviruses, lasted only 1 – 2 years (think yearly flu vaccine).

Antigens are structural parts of a virus.

In the novel coronavirus, a series of spikes on the outside help the virus spread

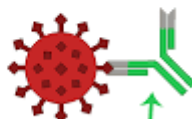


The virus uses these spikes to bind to cells and infect them.



Cell wall

These spikes can be neutralized, or blocked by antibodies.



Antibody

Antibodies are proteins produced by the immune system to fight infection.

## What about Current Antibody Testing for Covid-19?

An antibody test, also called a serology test, doesn't look for the virus itself, but instead looks for the body's own response to the virus, or the antibodies or proteins we produce. These antibodies circulate in the blood, so this test uses blood. There are two main types of antibody tests: Rapid tests using a little drop of blood from a finger prick and slower tests done in a lab. The rapid test only tells us that we may have antibodies to something, but the slow test also tells us how much of the antibodies are present. The slower lab test is the more accurate of the two tests.

There are currently about 14 approved antibody tests available in the US, and researchers have seen that only 3 of them give consistently reliable results. Four of the tests had false positive results of about 11 – 16% of the time and a few others had false positives around 5% of the time. False positives would make you think you had antibodies to Covid-19 when, in fact, you did not and give you a false sense of immunity. False positives can occur for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, an antibody produced to a different infection which is similar enough to the one being tested for (cross reaction), a poor quality test or a poor quality sample.

In an effort to provide testing as quickly as possible, many companies in multiple countries developed rapid antibody tests which were not well controlled or proven to be correct. This has caused a number of issues in helping us accurately map out possible immunity. Many of these tests are severely inaccurate. Word to the wise, don't waste your money buying these tests online. Some testing is underway to compare rapid and slow testing results, especially within a known community. Additional testing is needed to fully understand how long the antibodies persist over time, and hence, how long im-

munity might last. Do the antibodies fully provide immunity? What levels of antibodies are produced by a patient who was mildly, moderately or severely ill with Covid-19? What levels of antibodies are seen in a person who was exposed and never developed symptoms? The asymptomatic carrier of Covid-19 is one of the things that is making it difficult to open up our communities again. There are critical unanswered questions about how widespread the virus is, who has immunity and how long it will last. The development of a vaccine is a minimum of 12 – 18 months away so we are looking at a “new normal” of physical distancing and careful protection of vulnerable populations for the foreseeable future.

Dr. Gail Schuman and Dr. Amy Brumfield

## **Grace House Still Busy**

Our six City Year Corps members continue to be busy with their work despite the Covid quarantine. They are involved daily in assisting students and teachers in virtual school lessons and activities. Like the rest of us it's been an adjustment learning to work from home. They also deliver learning packets and boxed meals to students throughout the week. I am continually impressed by these young people's ongoing commitment to service as well as their high spirits.

We have also just confirmation that City Year will return to Manchester in the fall. Teachers and students will continue to benefit from much needed support and Grace House will be home to a new group of dedicated, energetic Corps members.

Ann Hewins, G.H. Manager

## **Living Compass: Emotional Wellness in the Midst of COVID-19**

*Emotional Wellness in the Midst of COVID-19*, Living Compass Small Groups, Tuesdays, June 9,16 and 23 at 12 PM or 6:30 PM, EST

This 3 session small group meeting over three weeks is intended to help us consider how our heart, soul, strength and mind can respond to these challenging times in healthy, life-giving ways, and, further, inspire creativity in thought, word and deed.

Sessions will be held via Zoom. There will be 2 sessions to choose from each Tuesday, either 12-1 PM or 6:30-7:30 PM (you choose just one). Each group is limited to 6 participants. Registration will close on June 5th and late registrations cannot be accepted. Participants will need a safe place in their home to attend so that conversations can be kept confidential.

To sign up for a group contact the church office and Marlene can give you the contact information for Judi Turner, Living Compass CWA, Community Wellness Advocate. It is free to participate but we ask that you are available to attend all 3 sessions.

## Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following June birthday celebrants!

5	Akur Leek	22	Mary Atwell
11	Lissa Foote	26	Mark Cleveland
	Nicholas Girgus		Gabriel Goyette
	David Murray	28	Ken Kjellander
19	Carol Boire	29	Gray Chynoweth
20	Julie Turner		Melissa Glassman
		30	Pauline Bell

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.

## Vestry Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

Present: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, Gail Schuman, Matthew Serge, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Chris Turner, Meghann White

Excused: David Roy

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Rev. Marjorie opened the meeting at 7:05 PM with an appropriate prayer. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

**VOTE:** A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Carol, seconded by Chris T, and was carried. The reports included are Clerk's Report and the Rector's Report.

Gail A reported that she had applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan at Citizen's Bank. She was informed that we had qualified and had been approved for approximately \$47,000. Forgiveness for this loan is given if it is used for payroll for personnel (including perks) and utilities. The bank will be sending the loan documents this week and upon receipt of the documents (within 48 hours) the money should be deposited into the church's account.

**VOTE:** A motion was made by Christopher, seconded by Matt to approve the March Financial Report. The motion carried.

Gail then painted the cash picture for April, May, and June. She reported that for that period we would have approximately \$118,000 in the operating fund. \$80,000 which came from the following: \$28,000 (previously misclassified), \$47,000 (PPP loan), \$5000(a bequest) that would be monies that were a onetime happening. She estimated the expenses for that time frame at \$106,000 taking into account the fair share forgiveness for April and May and an amount that could be needed to settle the PPP loan. She estimated that we would have \$21,000 left at the end of June. She reported that some parishioners had paid their pledges for the rest of the year and assumed that with some revenue coming in that we could fund the church through July. She urged the Vestry be thinking about the budget for next year. At present no income or expenses from Grace House have been considered in this cash picture. Ann will be asked to find out if City Year is planning to use Grace House next year. Teddi volunteered to speak to the City Year supervisor as well.

Meghann stated that two applicants had been selected to receive a grant but asked if the Vestry agreed that we should not issue any grants at this time. The decision was made that no grants would be issued at this time and we would reevaluate our financial position in the fall. Meghann will write two letters; one informing the chosen recipients that we cannot issue any grants at this time but are going to reevaluate our financial position in the fall and the second to inform the other applicants that they had not been chosen to receive a grant.

The wifi issues in the office have been addressed.

We are currently using Zoom for Sunday Services, Sunday School, Vestry Meetings, Knitting Group, Book Group, and Choir. Rev. Marjorie asked if there was any other group that might want to use Zoom.

Rev. Marjorie stated that Emery has been working on the interior of the parish. He has waxed the floors of the Great Hall, the Men's and Women's rooms, and will be doing more floors on Wednesday. He has been going

through the basement and trying to organize and would like to eliminate “junk”. We discussed what we could do to get rid of unneeded stuff.

The exterior is more of a problem. There are more people that are relieving themselves in the front of the church. Amy stated that the mats should be moved inside the church while we are closed.

The feedback about the Phone Tree has been positive. We may have a Zoom meeting soon.

Amy read a letter that will be put into the newsletter letting all know that people should call and make an appointment to come to the office and follow the covid-19 protocols.

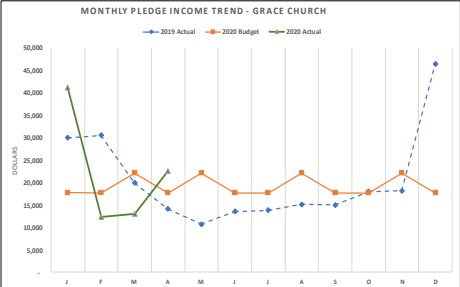
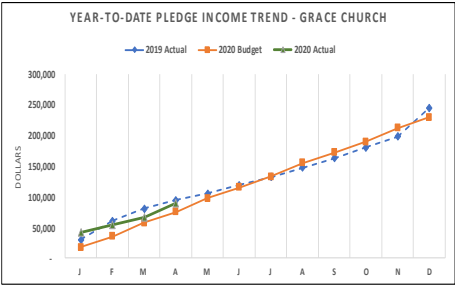
Rev. Marjorie reported that there is a dog in Grace House. This dog had been left by a City Year participant who had left to visit home and due to the virus has not been able to come back. The residents of Grace House have been informed of their responsibilities regarding the dog.

We have been granted fair share forgiveness for April and May.

The next Vestry meeting May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Johnson, Clerk





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### 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

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### Cover Illustration

Andrew Freshour

### Next Newsletter Deadline

June 15, 2020