



Grace Notes October 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: Surprised by Joy

One of my favorite book series as a child was *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. I read all seven books in a very short span of time and recall being sad when I finished the final book. So I went to the library and looked for more books by C.S. Lewis and remember being drawn to one in particular: *Surprised by Joy*. The book is a partial autobiography of the writer Clive Staples Lewis' life, from his early childhood to his conversion to Christianity in his early 30's. It was a heady book to read at the age of twelve, but I was determined to finish it (and eventually did!) because I loved the title so much.



Surprised by joy. C.S. Lewis asserts in his writing that joy is something that comes from God. It is a spiritual gift and a feeling that is unique and unlike none other. He explains joy comes when we least expect it. And truly when it arrives, joy surprises us.

As challenging as these times are, I am grateful I continue to be surprised by joy in a myriad of ways. A few weeks ago I opened the cabinet of our downstairs' bathroom to discover a massive army of ducks staring me down. My daughter Fiona had placed them there and seeing them made me laugh uncontrollably. While unpacking boxes at our new home I found a heart shaped stone that read "joy." The stone reminded me in the midst of a tedious day of unpacking to be joyful of the fact our family has been blessed with a wonderful new home. Finally, on the first day of school I was shocked when I asked to take a picture both my tweens willingly posed. Fiona remarked, "Take two - one with masks and one without so we will always remember this was the year of the pandemic!"

I continue to be surprised by the joy that comes from all of you. You who send cards of congratulations on my family's new home. You who donate to our parish discretionary fund and operating funds to support a myriad of worthy causes. You who are taking this COVID time to tour historic locations in our state, knit for others, discuss important books like *Just Mercy* during our parish book group on Zoom. You who continue to be faithful and strong and thoughtful as we consider potential plans to reopen for in person worship.

My prayer for you this month, and in the months to come, is that you will repeatedly be surprised by joy. The amazing thing about joy is we can experience it in any number of ways, as this newsletter issue showcases. We can find joy as we take a walk with our dog, think of and

thank God for a lifelong friend, and celebrate the blessing of being able to learn in new ways.

God, gift us sacred, joyful moments. And Lord, may we be instruments of joy and faith and hope to others.

Much love,
Marjorie +



Reopening Plans

Dear Parishioners,

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry have reviewed the recommendations of the Human Resource Committee with regard to their ongoing work on reopening. This collaboration has been prayerful, lengthy and detailed as befits any decision relating to the safety and wellbeing of our parish. Each of you was invited to participate in a survey reflecting your concerns and perspectives and your responses were carefully included in our discussions (103 responses). Below are the updated statistics:

- 67% are high risk by age alone
- 61% are taking extra precautions because of self or family in high risk.
- 69% have watched on zoom or later on YouTube
- 65% feel digital options keep them connected to their community and faith during this time of social distancing while 11% don't feel connected. 26% not attending either zoom morning prayer or compline
- 27% have not used digital worship, 1 has technical barrier
- 61% would not attend Eucharist with the stated requirements
- 63% would not attend Morning Prayer with the stated requirements
- 46% will not attend until after vaccine available/vaccination

Measurements were taken of the interior of the sanctuary. Based on the CDC and Governor's social distancing recommendations, we could provide space for four people in alternate pews or a maximum of 64 individuals. This would not include the service leaders in the chancel.

Now we come to the task of implementing the CDC and Diocesan protocols. Bishop +Rob and a specially assembled diocesan task force will need to review our plans and approve them prior to re-opening.

- People at risk of severe illness (defined by the CDC as those 65 years or older and people with underlying medical conditions) are asked to stay home and participate through a digital stream of service.
- Seven dedicated volunteers will be tasked with monitoring compliance with social distancing and other protective policies including education, hand hygiene and cloth face covering. Masks or cloth face coverings are required and must cover the mouth and the nose.
- Due to limits on the size of indoor gatherings, parishioners will be required to register (Eventbrite) before attending a service. Registration may be completed online or by telephoning the church office. You must register in advance in order to attend the service. Attendees and volunteers will be required to sign a waiver (indicating that the individual chooses to accept any potential risks of attending live worship) and must agree to provide their name, phone and/or email to facilitate contact tracing should the need arise.
- Social distancing of at least six feet will be maintained at all times including entering, standing, kneeling, sitting and participating in worship and again when leaving the service.
- Arrangement of the worship space seating requires a minimum of six feet distance between individuals and/or family groups.
- There will be no service leaflets or bulletins and no alms basins. There will be a designated area to deposit offerings on the way into the sanctuary. One singer (cantor), properly masked, will be permitted. Initially there will be a short morning prayer service with no Eucharist.
- There will be no close or physical contact with other attendees, staff or clergy including handshakes or hugs and no exchange of the peace.
- Childcare and in-person youth education programs must remain closed.
- Pre or post service communal gatherings (I.E. coffee hour, lemonade on the lawn or other food services) are not permitted. During entry and exit, the 6 foot spacing requirement must be upheld.

Once reopening has been approved by the Vestry, it will be necessary to register each week in order to worship in person. We will provide guidelines for registering online or by telephone.

In order to be fully compliant with CDC recommendations and the bishop's protocols, we need to establish a team of fourteen volunteers to assist with services; seven positions to be filled each week. One person will be a spare in order to cover an unexpected absence due to illness. However, if fewer than six members of the volunteer team report, the service cannot proceed. It should be noted that those people who serve as ushers and lavatory attendants are likely to miss portions of the worship service. If you are willing to volunteer to assist in

re-opening by filling one of the seven positions, please contact the church office.

Volunteer Safety Positions

- Two ushers outdoors to ensure social distancing, check reservations and obtain signed waivers. Clipboards and pens will require sanitizing after each usage.
- Two ushers indoors to assign pew seating and ensure social distancing.
- One lavatory attendant to monitor the facility and sanitize following each usage.
- One reader with his/her own copy of service portions

Observance of CDC/Diocesan safety provisions and protocols is essential to remaining open. We can provide an “in person” worship option only as long as we demonstrate a conscientious and collective compliance with the requirements delineated above. Each of us perceives a different level of personal vulnerability. Observance of safety guidelines and protocols is an expression of respect and caring for one another and is essential to remaining open. If these guidelines are not assiduously followed throughout, it may be necessary to discontinue the service immediately.

Yours in Christ,
Your Rector, Wardens and Vestry

What Will Be *Your Legacy*?

As I write this, I’m waiting to hear that my friend Gini has died. There is a hospital bed in her living room, and her son, round the clock caregivers, and her beloved dog keep her company. Hospice professionals are keeping her comfortable. When I visited her yesterday to say goodbye, she looked quite peaceful.



I’ve known Gini all my life. Her mother and my mother were best friends. She is 89 years old, and has been relatively independent until a week ago. Her son, Nick, had done her grocery shopping, and others had checked on her at various times each week. Nick tells me that she walked into the Emergency Department; now she is barely conscious.

There have been other people in my life who I thought would live forever. My mother was called “The Energizer Bunny”, because she just seemed to go on, and on, and on. She was 99 when she died. And there have been some, like Ruth Bader Ginsberg, I hoped would live forever.

My dear friend, Kim, knew for many months that eventually the options for a

cure from metastatic cancer would run out. She was only 63 when she died. She lived Christ's teachings. She lives on in the lives of all of us who knew her.

All this is to say that I've had plenty of time to think, despite book groups, sermons, classes, and campaigning. What will be my legacy?

There is little tangible evidence that my father lived, I thought. Until I realized that I am his legacy. His values are my values. His respect for creation, his love for people who weren't just like him, and his kindness and gentle spirit continue through me. I'll admit, I'm more of a fighter than he was, but seeking justice and equality is something we shared.

So, I'll leave you with the question I'm wrestling with: what will be your legacy?

Jane W Van Zandt+

The Steeple Project and the Pipe Organ

In a recent article for *Grace Notes*, I covered our concerns about protection of the pipe organ during the project to rebuild the steeple and described how that plan is in place when we need it. One of my concluding remarks was that, "We all learn a lot as we move forward in any project!"

Questions arose about our insurance coverage since we discovered that the replacement value of the pipe organ, per Andover Organ Company, is actually \$570,000. This then drew out the question about all of our coverages. Marlene Thompson made our initial contact with the insurance company; Marjorie+ then asked if I would contact them regarding the organ and the stained glass. This project then turned into learning about the whole policy.

After an initial contact with a client representative, Tracey Parent, from the home office in Bennington, Vermont she kindly forwarded the Church Safety and Insurance Handbook and a Specification of Coverage. *Church Insurance Agency Corporation* grew out of the *Church Pension Fund* more than 100 years ago. They are concerned exclusively with Episcopal Church insurances for parishes and buildings. They don't do other kinds of insurance such as life, health, etc. and are therefore committed to a very specific purpose.

The next step was a telephone call with Lianne Limoli, the Regional Vice President for Clients. Lianne lives in Manchester and is willing to do a presentation for the Vestry at any time, if they wish. She is very personable and knowledgeable.



ble about what is going on in a lot of Episcopal Parishes and is familiar with Grace Church and its unique situation. She explained a lot about our coverage and answered my questions with grace and humor (what else?).

In a nutshell, the church building and the parish hall are covered for 115% over their assessed value. This figure is \$6,563,800. The building includes the organ (for \$580,000) and the stained glass (for \$125,000). The last valuation on the stained glass windows was in 2014 and was determined by the total square footage of the windows multiplied by a value of about \$500.00 per square foot. She explained that the only time larger amounts of coverage are necessary would be for buildings with vintage pieces by Tiffany or Lafarge, for example. (Grace House and the garage have their own separate coverages, by the way.)

Personal property (or building contents) she described to me like this: imagine you turned the building upside down and shook out everything loose. That is covered by another \$612,000, again at 115% of estimated value. It can also be expressed as 10-20% of the building value and can be increased at any time for a small increase in premium. Since we have made an educated guess that our music-related items, organ excluded, are worth \$150,000, there would remain \$472,000 for everything else: chairs, tables, books, hymnals, office contents, etc.

There is also a category for "fine arts" for \$1,000,000, which covers vestments, contents of the sacristy, specific valuable pieces of art and the like.

She explained further that the use of 115% estimates is to our benefit since, if anything ends up being totally destroyed and the coverage for it is a little low, they can dip into another line item to pay for it. For example, if the building contents were a total loss and the \$612,000 wouldn't cover all the personal property, they'd take the difference out of the coverage for the building.

A final note: since Lianne is well-traveled and has her finger on the pulse of many Episcopal parishes, I asked her about the COVID-19 situation as it affects parishes. At the time of our conversation, she said that most parishes were remaining largely virtual with very little in-person worship. That will change over time, of course. There is, however, no coverage at the moment for lawsuits brought by persons who believe that they were infected at a church service/event. Given the current reality, she said that they are working on that sort of coverage as they expect such legal actions to arise in time. Perhaps the 2021 coverages will change to reflect this reality.

In a word, I'm confident that we're in good shape. As you can tell, I learned a lot and hope that you find this information helpful.

Ken Grinnell

The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

This year the Feast of Saint Francis falls on Sunday, October 4th. Saint Francis loved all animals and it is traditional on his feast day to celebrate the ways that animals are the face of God and bless us in our daily living. So on that day, at the end of our Sunday morning Zoom worship, we invite everyone to bring their pets "on screen" to be introduced to our parish and blessed.



You are welcome to keep sending your photographs to the parish office or Marjorie of all your animal family members (here on earth or now in heav-

en) so they can be remembered and viewed visually during our Zoom worship. Be sure to include your pet's name and your name as well when you send in your photos. The deadline for all submitted photography is October 1st.

We are grateful for the way God speaks to us through our animals. May we be as kind to them as they are to us.

Most high, omnipotent good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy. O God, you have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these pets who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

GEC Book Group Update

On Tuesday, September 15th eleven members of the Grace Church book group met to discuss the text *Just Mercy*. Jane Van Zandt created a wonderful and challenging list of questions and statements from this phenomenal book authored by the lawyer Bryan Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. Jane pulled out some remarkable quotes from the text for us to discuss including these: The opposite of poverty is not wealth - it is justice. Each person in our society is more than the worst thing they've ever done. Capital punishment means 'them without the capital get the punishment'. And a wonderful piece of advice Mr. Stevenson's grandmother often told him, You can't understand most of the important things from a distance, Bryan. You have to get up close. On behalf of the GEC book group, Marjorie made a substantial donation to the Equal Justice Initiative for the work they do to support and serve those in need of legal aid who cannot afford to pay.

Please consider joining us for our next Zoom book group discussion and gathering, which will take place on Tuesday, October 20th. We will be discussing the book *Educated*. This book is a memoir by the American author, Tara Westover. In it, Westover recounts overcoming her survivalist Mormon family in order to go to college, and emphasizes the importance of education to enlarging her world.

If you are interesting in receiving a link to our next GEC book group meeting, please contact Christine Stevens or Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro+



Learning During A Pandemic

As we go back to school there are lots of changes being made to protect everyone. Whether you are at home, hybrid, or fully in person there will be something different. At the school I go to we are currently following a hybrid model, meaning half of each class attends in person, and half attend online (alternating after two days). We are also following a block schedule meaning I have half my classes on one day, and the rest on the next.

Most of my teachers will have the online people go onto Zoom, or Meet, and then stream the in person class to everyone online. This has its benefits, but also some downsides. While it means the entire class stays together, if it isn't done right it can become confusing, and hard to understand what students are to do. Another way some teachers will do it is have the in-person people do one assignment, and the online people do a different assignment. Then when the classes switch they do the assignment they didn't do. This way is a lot easier to implement, but if one half gets ahead, it is harder for the teacher to manage. In my experience the first strategy is easier for the teacher, while the latter is easier for the student.



It is also important to stay organized at home and in person. Because of the moving between areas it is also important to keep everything together, so I recommend getting a large binder, accordion folder, dividers, and a pencil case. I use the Case-it system which compacts all of these into one thing.

While I am happy to be back in school, it wouldn't be the same without extracurriculars. Currently there are some extracurriculars running, but with restrictions. Not only are these great for college, it is also where I get to see most of my friends. I currently have Marching band, strategic gaming club, and robotics. With marching band, football is also starting up. Only the band members and family members (of the band and players) are allowed to attend the games. I am very happy and excited for what is to come.

Not all my friends go to school on the same days as me. So when we can't see each other we will text, and play social games together. We usually play Jackbox which involves answering prompts on your phone. We are going to play Among Us too soon, which places you in the role of a crew on a spaceship. Your goal is to complete tasks as a group, but there are imposters who attempt to get rid of the crewmates. Overall I am happy to be at school and excited for the year to come.

Mannix Muir
Sophomore, Pinkerton Academy

The Giving Tree

The Outreach Committee is changing the way The Giving Tree will work this year. While most of us enjoy choosing a mitten and shopping for a specific child, that will not be possible due to the pandemic. However, Christmas will still come and families will still need help, perhaps more than ever.



After discussing the logistics with social workers at the schools we have dealt with in the past, we have decided that we need to give gift cards this year. The Outreach Committee will purchase gift cards at Walmart, the only store we have found that will provide cards that prohibit the purchase of alcohol or tobacco products.

In the past Grace Church parishioners have provided gifts for 125 children at an average price of \$75 each. When this is multiplied, it comes to the overwhelming total of \$9375. In order to do this again, we need your help. Please be as generous as you can. Any amount will be appreciated. Send a check made out to Grace Church with a notation that this is for The Giving Tree. We need to receive the money no later than November 16. All the gift cards will be purchased by the Outreach Committee using the money that is donated.

We will also collect hats and mittens as we have done in the past. Details on this will come later.

Nancy-Ann Feren
Outreach Chair

Thoughts and Reflections

Dad Joseph

Mary bore Jesus, but I'm sure she still needed help to raise him. Going it alone would probably have been very difficult. Tradition puts God as the Father of Jesus, but Jesus was human and would be part of a family. Joseph was the dad. Typically, all of the attention is given to Mary and Jesus, but I'm sure that Joseph had an important role as dad. Here are some things that I see as making Joseph really special and really important.



One is that Joseph was willing to take Mary as his wife, despite the fact that she was already pregnant, and not by him.

When the rulers of their country put newly born children in danger, Joseph took Mary and fled to a safer place so the child could be protected, even if it wasn't his.

Jesus, being human, passed through adolescence and grew into a responsible adult. Young boys going through that growth can be helped by a strong and stable dad to guide them along. Who but Joseph would have filled that role?

Joseph was always quietly in the background, but I wonder if he could be compared to a "magnet under the table" in helping to move things along and help raise Jesus, but without being out in the open and obvious.

It's sometimes easy for things to get passed by and overlooked, so I wanted to point out someone that I thought was very important. In the story of Jesus, we usually hear very little about Joseph's part in it. I thought it would be worth acknowledging his role.

Dick Feren

20 years of Ministry and Service

Marlene Moher Thompson

On September 18th, 2020 our amazing parish administrator, Marlene Thompson, celebrated TWENTY years of service at Grace Episcopal

Church. Marlene is a cradle Episcopalian who attended Grace Episcopal Church in Manchester with her parents and siblings for all of her childhood and young adult life. (Her parents began attending Grace in the early 1920's.) Marlene also experienced the power of 3 at Grace Church: she was baptized, confirmed, and married in our parish.

Marlene worshipped with our Grace Church community at our Zoom worship service on Sunday, September 20th at 9:30 AM. At the end of the service we celebrated Marlene's vocational anniversary with our parish family. Special thanks to Hank Gagnon who spearheaded a collection of donations and personal messages to make this celebration a huge success.

Thanks to your generosity Marlene was virtually gifted (and then these items were handed over to her the following Tuesday!) with 25 handwritten notes and a VISA gift card for \$2,000!! Marlene plans to buy herself a new iPad and/or iPhone so she can continue to communicate well, not only for work, but with her son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.



Marjorie prayed the following prayer in Marlene's honor at the end of the service:

Loving God, You created us - male and female - in your image. We give you thanks for Marlene Thompson, our amazing parish administrator. You empowered the church with the gift of your Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and Marlene enables our parish to keep on running smoothly, day in and day out. Regularly over the years Marlene has juggled preparing bulletins for Sunday in the midst of phone calls, calendar scheduling, diocesan deadlines, maintenance workers, and "drop-ins" who come by for a chat. Today we give you thanks that Marlene answered your call 20 years ago to become the face of Grace. She has worked overtime to provide pastoral care, wisdom, and sound advice. Like your mother at the wedding of Cana, Marlene knows what needs to be done, when, and by whom. She coaches and cares for her rector, parish staff, and parishioners well. She is truly Christ-like in the giving and building up of this parish family. We ask you to bless her with refreshing rest when she needs it and with a joy-filled heart at the end of every week. Marlene, you are a treasure beyond measure. May you always know and feel how deeply loved you are by your Creator, this parish, and all who love you. And we pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you missed sending a note of congratulations to Marlene, please feel free to mail her a card at our parish address: 106 Lowell Street Manchester, New Hampshire 03104

Letter from Marlene

Dear Grace Church Family,

Sunday morning (September 20) at the end of Morning Prayer, I was so humbled, happy and totally surprised to receive that beautiful tribute honoring my 20 years of service at Grace Church. When Marjorie suggested that I attend the service that morning to celebrate my 20th anniversary, I assumed there might be an acknowledgement and a prayer. I had no idea that it would involve a gift, cards and such a truly heartwarming prayer from Marjorie and so much love from all.



I don't know where those 20 years went. When I first started, I merely thought that it would give me something to do as well as health care. (My husband was self-employed and health care was attractive.) My predecessor was here for 17 years and breaking her record was not something I was looking to achieve. It has been truly a calling to a ministry that I never expected I would have. I have enjoyed every minute of my time with all of

you (with the possible exception of Christmas and Easter bulletins). I have loved knowing all of you and being a part of your Grace Church life. I have felt your love and support from day one which has lasted throughout the years. You never fail to thank me for what I do and in so many instances you make my life and work so easy while also making me look good.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your contributions, notes and most importantly your love and support.

Much love and many blessings,
Marlene



Getting to Know You:

Louis T. Hudon

(The “T” is for Trouble... actually it’s for Thomas)

Are you a NH Native?

Yes, I was born in 1932 in Goffstown, one of four children. I was raised Catholic, we went to St. John the Baptist Church, then St. Anthony’s. My mother was a hairdresser. I used to help her in the shop. One of the jobs I had was to take the bobby pins out of the ladies’ hair. One of the customers was a historian for the City of Manchester. She used to tell me bits of Manchester history while I took the bobby pins out of her hair. She told me that all of the bricks that were used to make the mills in Manchester were made from clay and sand from Hooksett. They would load barges up with clay and sand in Hooksett, and float them down the Merrimack River, and down the Canal, which is now Canal Street (it was filled in in the 1970’s) and they made



the bricks in Manchester. She also told me how the British harvested the tall, straight pine trees from around our area to use as ship masts.

I came to Grace Episcopal Church and was received into the Episcopal Church in 1965. I was baptized in Grace Church by Father Warner, who eventually became an Episcopal Bishop in another state. I came to Grace Church when I married Gloria. We were married 37 wonderful years.

I have four children, two boys and two girls; and three step children- I also have 11 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

What's the biggest change you've seen at Grace Church in your time here?

Back then, the priest would have his back to you during the service. Now the priest faces you during service, I like it much better this way, it makes you feel a part of the service.

I was asked to be the Sexton, I was Sexton for a long while. Marlene and I go way back. I helped set up her office. I made two smaller offices out of one big office. I put in the metal studs, and sheet rock and set up what is now the Rector's office and the administrator's office. I did a lot of small and big repairs around the church.

I built the book holders on the back of the pews. The book holders weren't wide enough for what we needed. I looked into ordering them, but that was too expensive, so I made them in my shop. I made 110 of them, able to hold six books each. I designed them and installed them, so you are able to comfortably fit your hand between the top of the pew and the back of the book to pull the book up and out. I had to put them in lower than the originals to accommodate that. I made them out of ash wood, it's a very hard wood. It's what baseball bats are made of. That way they will be able to take lots of wear and tear over the years and not break. I sanded them down, and stained them. They came out really nicely. Because I made them rather than order them, I was able to save the church \$6,000. Then I was asked to make another set of book holders for the choir books- I made 120 of those. However, while I was making them, I sawed off the top part of three fingers on my table saw. Cut my fingers off right at the first knuckle. They can't reattach fingers at the knuckle. But the Lord was with me that day- it didn't hurt. I talked to God and I said, "You were nailed to a cross for us, I can go through this for you." And it didn't hurt. Now my fingers tell me when it's going to get cold, they get numb when it does.

What did you do for a living?

I was the Air Force then, activated right after World War II. Then, I was part time in the Air National Guard as a tech- 19 years all together. I worked on jet engines. I was stationed at Grenier Field, which is now Man-

chester Airport. I was able to travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, and Sweden and London while in the Airforce.

When we were in London, someone arranged a trip for the Air Force personnel to Our Lady of Lourdes- they asked who wants to go, and I said yes! We paid our own way, but it was a wonderful trip. I wouldn't have been able to do that if not for the Air Force. I also worked at Pratt Whitney on jet engines. I also was a hairdresser, I worked in Concord.

When I met my wife, Gloria, she had a beauty parlor downstairs in her house. I helped her out doing hair dressing. I also helped out fixing up her house. I put in new floors, new siding, put in a new sink and new cabinets in the kitchen. I also stripped out the old tile floor and put in a new parquet floor. Gloria wasn't sure about that but I told her to trust me. When I finished putting it in and polished the floor, she was very happy. Then, I asked my boss in Concord for two weeks off so I could put in a porch on her house. I discovered I was very good at carpentry, and I started getting more carpentry jobs, so I kept doing it and doing it. I opened my own business. I eventually bought a truck and started doing work as far away as Massachusetts.

What's the most important thing about being a part of Grace Church?

There's just so much to explain, there's no right words. I love Marjorie, she's a very special woman and we are so lucky to have her. I love everyone. Everyone. It's such an important part of my life. I can't put it into words.

Do you have any advice for people just entering a marriage?

Don't ever go to sleep mad at each other. Talk it out, talk it through. Gloria and I had *one* argument in our 37 years together. Early on, she went to bed angry at me once- I woke her up and said, "We need to talk about this. Dogs get mad, we're not dogs." We never argued from that day forward. We talked about everything. We worked it through. No matter what it is that has made you upset, it's not worth a fight. Don't go to bed angry.

What's your favorite food?

Gloria used to make the best pasta in the world. Being French, I only thought there was one kind of pasta (elbow macaroni) but after being married to Gloria, she showed me all the different kinds of pasta there were, and she was a great cook! I loved her lasagna. If you want to satisfy Louie, make me lasagna!

What are you most proud of?

That I can fix things and help people. For example, years ago when Rev. Marjorie was in her (now old) home here in Manchester, and she had two small children, she mentioned that she had a gate at the end of her driveway that was very difficult to move. I listened to what she said, and I knew I could

fix it. I had a small wheel in my workshop, so without telling her, I fixed it. I added the wheel to the bottom of the gate, so she could easily push it back and forth. I didn't tell her for a long time that I was the one who fixed it, but I would ask her, "How's that gate working for you?" I think I eventually told her it was me who fixed it.

Do you pray?

I don't pray. I talk to the Lord- all the time, every day.

What do you enjoy for fun?

I like to read, especially detective stories and I play mahjong on the computer.

What is something few people know about you?

I jumped out of an airplane. I was 55, I jumped with my son. I remember standing at the door of the airplane and the instructor saying, "I'm not going to push you, so just jump when I say jump." I free fell through one layer of clouds, then another layer of clouds... then the instructor gave me the signal (he touched my nose) to pull the ripcord and open my parachute- nothing happened. A few seconds passed, then WOOSH- the parachute opened up. It was amazing. I would go again tomorrow. You wanna go?

My daughter tells me when I talk to women, they think I'm flirting with them, all the time. I just talk from my heart.

A few years after Gloria died, I was invited to a church party. I had an idea, I filed down the tool rings that held some tools up, buffed them nicely and wrapped them in little boxes, and I gave them to Rector Marjorie and three other women and asked them all to be my wives.



the yellow leaf

an early snow
that october 29
tree leaves laden
stark with snow
my heart heavy
the day he died
power goes out
my light is gone
days into weeks
yellow leaves fly
yet one is left
a lone yellow leaf
hangs on for days
is he really gone?
"no" she said
"he's not ready"
my soul rests
his smile the leaf
my joy, my sun
open your heart
he whispers
on a breeze
remember . . .
I will love you
till time ends
I am with you
in the wind
in the rain
the brilliant sun
the dark of night
caressing you
loving you
and one day
when I awoke
the yellow leaf
the last leaf
is gone
and in the wind
I hear
a soft refrain
"I am with you,
love you always"
and the next year

and every year
as fall appears
october 29 comes
and is no more
the last leaf
the yellow leaf
reminds me again
you are here
in my heart
in my soul
still loving

I completed writing this recently but it has germinated since the loss of my husband Joseph on 10/29/2011. Hopefully others who grieve for a loved one can find comfort and strength in natures' gifts which surround us.

Linda Garrish Thomas

Happy Anniversary

On September 11th, 2020 parishioner Roger Bleau and his wife Michele celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss. The couple was given a surprise, at home wedding celebration by their family. Their daughter, Kathy, came over to their home and planted flowers all over their yard and weeded and trimmed their garden. Then in the evening the couple was served a beautiful, candlelit dinner thanks to their daughter Jeanine and her beloved Lucy as well as their good friends Rickey and Luc. The fearless foursome dressed up to serve as wait staff and catered a delicious meal of salad, shrimp, baked stuffed haddock, lasagna, and a flourless chocolate torte.



Roger and Michele got married 5 weeks after Roger returned home from Vietnam. They were engaged the entire time that Roger was in the service. Michele wrote to Roger every day he was in Vietnam, which Roger asserts saved his life. They both met at Saint Anselm College. Michele graduated first in her nursing class, while Roger admits he was "not the best student." (As Roger explains, opposites attract!) Each of them was dearly loved by the other partner's family. Additionally, both Roger and Michele were fortunate enough to have decent paying jobs, healthy children, and wonderful grandchildren.

Roger observed, "We have always been free to choose our own path with support from each other. That explains Michele's Catholicism and my Episcopalianism, my being registered a Democrat and Michele being an Independent. If I died today, I die with gratitude for all the years we have cared about each other. God has so blessed us!"

Blessings and thanks to Roger and Michele Bleau for modeling Christ's love to the world through a beautiful partnership and holy family of children and grandchildren.

Over the Fence

September means busy times at Grace House. After a month of training and orientation our City Year folks are hard at work. Luvango and Bianca are both at Wilson School working with 4th and 5th graders respectively. Allison and Nick are at Northwest working with 3rd graders. Hannah is at Bakersville with 4th graders, and Charlie is working with 8th graders at Parkside. Their work this year will be invaluable to the students and teachers in our city schools.



On the homefront, Mark Anderson and the property committee have been busy responding to a variety of challenges. Since the beginning of August, we have needed to replace the upstairs stove, the frail and elderly dryer, and troubleshoot the cause of mysterious power outages. No wonder the tenants refer to our property chair as Magic Mark!

Many thanks to the members of this dedicated committee for their ongoing support. Never a dull moment at Grace House!

Ann Hewins

Ataxia Virtual Walk

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and managing safely

in this challenging time. Ken and I continue to support the efforts of the National Ataxia Foundation and their efforts to support research for a cure for ataxia.



For obvious reasons, there will be no “live” New Hampshire Walk n Roll this year. Instead the National Ataxia Foundation has set up a Virtual Walk n Roll event across the country that is being held on October 3rd. We are part of that event under the Northeast Walk n Roll. Over the past year many drug trials have been initiated and that gives us much hope. If you are moved to support ataxia research as NAF continues its mission to support the fight to improve the lives of people affected by ataxia and their families, please use this link to make a donation on my page:
<https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/NAFLIVE/JillPorter>

If you would rather send a donation by check please do so by making your check payable to NAF and mailing it to me. For additional information contact the church office for my contact information. Thanks for caring about us as we continue along our journey. We look forward to your support, whatever that may be.

Jill & Ken Porter

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following October birthdays celebrants!

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

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.

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, page 830

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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

Excused Absences: Gail Schuman, Meghann White

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Rev. Marjorie opened the meeting at 7:10 PM with a prayer. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Valerie, seconded by Hank, and was carried. The reports included are Clerk's Report, Endowment Report (July 2020), and the Planning and Finance Reports (August 2020).

The Vestry had received the financial reports from Gail A., including the sheet reference/comment page. She noted that we are currently showing favorable to budget. We have now resumed paying our Diocesan Fair Share.

VOTE: A motion was made by Hank, seconded by Christopher to approve the July Financial Report. The motion carried.

Christopher had attended a financial meeting at the Diocese and reported that the Diocese wants to have financial reviews done at all the parishes. They said that for parishes showing \$500,000 or less in the Parochial Report the review could be conducted by a committee and those parishes exceeding that number should have the review done by someone outside. Our parish reported \$542,636 in the Parochial Report. The review is to include the Internal Controls as well. Gail A. volunteered to provide the Internal Controls review. The Vestry discussed ways the review could be conducted. Rev. Marjorie will contact Rick Maloney and Linda Jacobson to see if either would

conduct the review.

Gail A. reported that we need more daytime counters. Now during Covid, since there is no plate, the counting is done twice a month. Starting September there will only be two counting teams. She would like to have at least one more team. Counting should only be done during the day so that the deposit can be made immediately. A background check is required for all the counters.

The September draw will be taken as previously determined. Approximately \$30,000 of each \$50,000 draw is allocated to operations. The Vestry had a long discussion as to how the rest should currently be allocated. Gail A. noted that there is a need for the parish to have a cash reserve account; we need to keep some cash for unplanned events, expenses, repairs, and revenue shortfalls. We have a Parish Contingency Fund which is overseen by the ECF; it is an account where the cash is not readily available – stock, bonds would have to be sold and what would the cost of the transactions be. We currently have a reserve (contingency) account of \$19,000 in cash; we would add the \$20,000 from the September and December grant draws and have our reserve account accumulate before we consider using some of the draw for providing grants to others. We will determine the accumulation amount at a later date.

The protection of the organ during the tower and steeple repairs will be done by Andover Organ and will cost \$2,500 before the repairs and \$2000 after the repairs. Ken G. had reported that the organ was worth around \$600,000. He is going to see how the organ is insured – he is to be clear to find out if they are quoting fair market value or replacement cost for the organ.

VOTE: A motion was made by Valerie and seconded by Matt that the payment \$4,500 to Andover Organ be approved. The motion carried.

Gary York will oversee the organ project for the church.

Ken Rhodes has not yet provided the Vestry with the document stating why the Property Committee was not able to find any other vendors who could bid on the magnitude of this project.

Any reported that 64 responses from the survey were received. The Shepherds will contact their “flock” to see how they respond as well. The results of the survey showed the following results

- 65% in high risk
- 70% have someone close in high risk

- Are attending via Zoom (Sunday or compline)
- 5% do not feel connected
- 25% not attending either
- Would not attend if service had Eucharist
- Would not attend if service did not have Eucharist
- Most ready to come only after vaccine available

Rev. Marjorie will be holding a short service to inter the remains of a parish-ioner in the Memorial Garden. She will hold the service in the park and then process to the church. The attendance will be limited to 30 attendees who must wear masks, adhere to social distancing, and provide information for tracing. There will be 2 ushers to assist her.

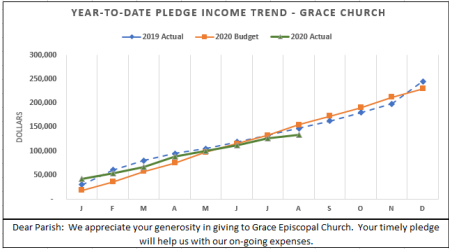
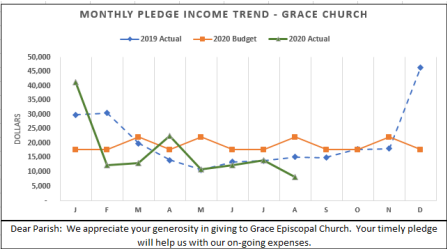
The Vestry had been sent the “Model Bylaws for the Congregations” which has been updated by the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire and also a copy of our bylaws which had been modified to comply with the Diocesan model. Nancy pointed out the modifications that had been made and why. The Vestry will review the documents and will discuss, update, and approve our bylaws at the next meeting. The bylaws have to be approved at the next Annual meeting.

Amy reported that a worker had come to Grace House to do some work and was not wearing a mask. She presented a draft of what our Mask Code should be. The Vestry will review the draft and make any modifications and will approve it vial email this coming week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The next Vestry meeting is September 16th.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk



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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

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