



Grace Notes March 2021

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

"A single conversation across the table with a wise man is better than ten years mere study of books." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"It isn't so much what's on the table that matters, as what's on the chairs." W.S. Gilbert



"This is how the world changes - little by little, table by table, meal by meal, hour by hour. This is how we chip away at isolation, loneliness, fear. This is how we connect, in big and small ways - we do it around the table." Shauna Niequist

I vividly remember, at my very first call, sitting in the front of a cathedral's altar surrounded by a large group of children and asking them about their table patterns. The who, when, where, and how regarding their eating habits. This was in the mid 1990's, and even then I was surprised to find how many of the children rarely ate simultaneously and regularly at a table with their parents and siblings. The children explained they were often too busy going to evening activities to sit down at home with the rest of their families together for meals. More often than not "take away" food (as one British child explained) or separate dinner times (one for parents, another for children) reigned as the regular food patterns for families.

A close clergy friend of mine says, *"At the end of this pandemic it is going to be like the roaring 20's. We will be partying and gathering like never before. We will not take table time for granted."*

My family relocated to Hooksett last July. But for many months, our small, dining area was empty. When I finally got around to purchasing a table (the one in our previous home would have never fit; it was far too large), the table sat in a box for months. The notion of constructing the table, made of wrought iron and heavy pieces of wood, frightened me. One friend intended to come and help, but cancelled coming several times. Finally, I agreed to have two others come and help. We celebrated the end of construction with Chinese food and laughter sitting, of course, at our new table. After lacking table time for so long, I was shocked at how quickly the patterns of our home life changed. All of a sudden, we had a

place to gather. Regularly now we, as a family, sit together to do homework, eat, or even eat AND watch a TV show, as our condo is so wonderfully small the TV is only several feet away from us. Month after month, at Drive-By Eucharist, I am reminded of the importance of table time. Parishioners drive (or even walk) through our parish's nearby parking lot, smile, and hold out their hands for a tiny cup full of wine and a miniscule cracker. But the laughter and joy that comes with gathering, with seeing the faces of Grace, is palpable and evident. We love being together. It feeds us - physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Although pandemic time and the isolation it brings is hard, I keep telling myself (and praying) that this time is building up within us a hunger to treasure and embrace more table time once the pandemic ends. I pray people will not only *Carpe Diem* (seize the day) but *Carpe Mensam* - Seize the Table! Perhaps in the past we have been too afraid to invite people over for a home cooked meal, ask someone to join them for lunch, or deliberately choose to sit in the lunchroom with someone who needs a friend. Perhaps we will choose to break bread with people who are radically and politically different from us because, despite that truth, we still value them, love them, and call

them our friends. Perhaps, with God's help, new and enriching table patterns will form.

May we continue, as Christians, to find creative ways to gather and hunger for the day when we can hug long and linger over simple tables.

Much love,
Marjorie +



What Shall We Talk About?

In my dream, I introduce my newborns to a stranger: “This is my son Pfizer, and my daughter Moderna”. That’s a stretch for two reasons; at almost 79 years of age, it’s unlikely I’ll have twins, and it’s equally doubtful that I would name them after vaccines. But, that’s where we are. Conversations invariably include COVID, vaccines, or the weather. One would think that by now we would have evolved beyond that somewhat. Lord knows, we’ve had plenty of time!



In a couple of groups I belong to, conversations must be safe; hence, those three topics, or other neutral ones. But the folks in my other groups introduce any topic anyone wants to pursue. Not everyone agrees with everyone else, but the lively conversations that ensue mean that we all learn something from one another. There are so many topics that are deemed controversial that we are never at a loss to choose one.

It reminds some of us of our debate teams in high school. Instead of responding quickly to a statement we don’t agree with, we must first - listen. That’s hard to do, when we are anxious to share *our* take on a subject. Asking questions for clarification, and carefully thinking over the answers, mean that the other person feels valued. No arguing or raising voices. Just respect, and a desire to learn. We laugh, and we agree to disagree. We enjoy being together.

Jesus never silently agreed with people just to keep the peace. He was always willing to rock the boat, so to speak. Challenging others, and allowing ourselves to be challenged, enables growth.

My dreams, which are often action-packed, and always in color, afford me a variety of topics to choose from. And, perhaps Pfizer and Moderna will grow up to be enquiring adults. I hope so.

Jane Van Zandt

Ash Wednesday

Blessings and thanks to the 50 parishioners who came to our parish campus to participate in our outdoor imposition of ashes. Armed with pottery bowls (made by Marjorie) and ashes (made from dried palms burned



by Marjorie and ground down to dust) Hank Gagnon, Christopher Messier, and the Reverends Mike Andres, Jane Van Zandt, and Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro prayed holy words and made the sign of the cross on parishioner’s foreheads. One of our younger parishioners even took some ashes home to mark her brother with the sign of the cross as he was unable to attend. Those who stood waiting for people to arrive shared the excitement of waiting to see who would come.

Blessings and a Holy Lent to one and all!

Drive-By Eucharist

Thank you to all those who joined us for our February Drive-By Eucharist; 55 parishioners were fed and one dog was blessed.

Our next Drive-By Eucharist will take place on Sunday, March 28th (Palm Sunday) from 12 to 12:45 PM. We will also have Drive-By Eucharist on Sunday, April 4th (Easter Day) from 12 to 12:45 PM.

Special thanks to our devoted clergy and Lay Eucharistic Ministers who continue to dress warmly and serve others in this ministry: the Rever-

ends Michael Andres, Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, and Jane Van Zandt, Hank and Greg Gagnon, Christopher Messier, and Brian Guimond.

We are grateful to Etsy artist Christine McKenna of Catholic Masks who designed and supplied us with special Lenten face masks.



Getting to Know You: Michael Duffy, Part Two

Last month the fabulous Moe Egan Thomas interviewed a long time, faithful parishioner, Michael Duffy. Last month we learned a lot about just Michael. This month we offer you part two of the interview, where we learn about Michael's love of hospitality and historic buildings.

I think everyone in the parish would agree that you and Stephen, your husband, are consummate hosts. How did you get to be such a remarkable host and chef?

One Halloween, as we passed out our traditional full-sized candy bars,



and nips of brandy for the parents a cowboy asked me “Are you guys rich?” I answered, “No, we’re generous, and it’s not the same thing!” Our hospitality, which we like to call radical, is based on Stephen’s natural generosity and what we’ve learned from our moms, both generous hostesses. My mom hosted several wedding rehearsal dinners, and I have always aspired to follow her example. To date, our home (the Amherst Street Inn/“ASI”) has hosted 4 rehearsal dinners! There have been graduation and birthday parties, baby showers, big and small dinners, house parties for the music school, NHPR, the NH Preservation Alliance, and a couple of politicians. A particular highlight was a 50th wedding anniversary party for our neighbors, an event inspired by a story on “This American Life”. This summer, along with our next-door neighbors, we hosted a wedding for some other young neighbors. In more usual years, there’s always the Feast of the 7 Fishes (usually just before Christmas) and our 12th Night party, which is epic!

Why do you feel it is so important to open your home as you do for so many? Tell us about your house and its nickname.

Our house has 2 nicknames. It has 7 bedrooms and a wrap-around pizza, and plays host to many parties and guests, so it was early on dubbed the Amherst Street Inn, or “ASI”. Part of my official job description is “half-assed innkeeper”. My other job is Chief Cook and Bottle Washer at “Big D’s Home for Wayward Boys”, the 2nd nickname for our house, which has been home to 16 young men over the years. Stephen and I are known to the boys as Big D and Little D, which they got from our cat, who calls us Big Daddy and Little Daddy. The “Wayward Boys” have included a foster care alum, college grads who didn’t want to move back home to their parents’ house, a City Year corps member, an aspiring pilot (who has since gone off into the wild blue yonder with the USAF), an apprentice plumber, game designers working dream jobs for slave wages, a Syrian refugee, and 2 Mayor Pete campaign staffers. Among our alumni are Andrew Freshour, Marcus Forand, their friend Cody Carlson, and Justin Posnanski, all well known around Grace Church.

Of all the architectural preservation you’ve done over the years, is there a particular home/building that you are most proud of and why?

I think that my work has been the same for all my adult life, but in several capacities. I worked for two preservation and restoration wizards in Portsmouth, absorbed their philosophy, and tried to do the same on

my own. I worked at Grace Church for years, and now I am a house collector and landlord in my own neighborhood. Stephen and I have worked on our houses and gardens constantly for years. My favorite project is not the biggest, most significant, or fanciest. I bought the "Elmer F. Torrey House" on Concord Street with my parents in 1987, and have been working on it all these years. I had roommates there and lived alone for a decade. Stephen and I lived there for another decade and now there is a family renting it from us. It has been well loved and well cared for, long before me. Since part of my background was in the Portsmouth museum house world, we treated it as a genuine historic landmark, even when it didn't make financial sense.

Tell me a bit about how Grace Church is an important historic building AND sacred space.

I have always thought of when I was the Sexton of Grace Church as the perfect job for me, the best job I ever had, and the perfect combination of my previous careers: historian, resident mental health counselor, Benedictine monk, and old house restorer. The timing of my tour of duty coincided with several factors that enabled me to undertake some significant projects. Father Bruce Jacobsen was offended that the lovely and original Upjohn designed vestibule was serving as a garden shed, where the mower and snow blower were parked, with tools hanging on the walls, and quarts of motor oil on the windowsills. Just after 9/11/2001, when my brothers needed to escape NYC for a while, the 3 of us took it on. Our other brother contributed the cost of the materials for the project, and it was dedicated as a memorial to a cousin and a best friend lost at the World Trade Center.

Next was a restoration of the Choir Room, complete with a bookshelf with a compartment for each singer. David Kjellander sanded the blue paint off the floor and Brian Guimond helped wire the new schoolhouse lamps in the beadboard ceiling. We hired Bill Ready to repair a long-neglected leak in the parish house roof, and I then repaired the Parish Library ceiling, refinished the oak woodwork, and painted the ceiling and walls. Next was the Parish House stairway, where the oak stairs were refinished, and the walls repaired and painted. Reproduction lamps donated by various parishioners were hung to replace modern fluorescent fixtures. This led to the other stairway, where I made make-believe king post trusses, inspired by

the real ones in the Great Hall. Other donors contributed more lamps, and parishioner Jimmy Webber helped me with the verse from the Psalms around the frieze.

Each summer, I worked next door on the exterior of Grace House, built in 1843 and acquired by Grace Church in 1991. I was given official permission to replace the shelf of the pediments on the east and west sides, then the portico roof with copper. Each of these projects required removal of some of the asbestos siding. The Junior Warden was not pleased when I couldn't help myself and kept going to reveal



the Greek Revival features hiding underneath. Once it was too late, and after I'd been sent to Asbestos Abatement School, I removed all the siding, repaired the original Clapboards, window trim, and massive corner pilasters, and painted in a period color scheme. I worked on the front and the west side and left the back and east side undone.

My final project was the Sacristy. I took down the suspended ceiling and repaired the original plaster. I built some cupboards and drawers, and a concrete work counter. I put the Ralph Adams Cram designed lamp, removed decades before, back where it belongs. I came back as a volunteer years later, to repair the ceiling again, after a devastating ice dam. My volunteer projects also include faux purlin ends on the outside of the parish house, a new walnut box to store the hymn board letters, hanging pictures and plaques, changing burnt-out light bulbs, and repairing leaded glass windows. I maintain a mental list of projects that I feel are my responsibility, including more faux purlin ends for the Great Hall, made, but not installed, more leaded windows, and a pass-through window in the kitchen. Like any old building, there's no end to projects.

Time to blow your own horn, when we look around the buildings of Grace Church, where can we see your handiwork?

The parish has inherited a great and beautiful gift from our ancestors. While it may be impractical, expensive, and unnecessary, particularly these days, when we have figured out how to have church with no buildings, our church needs to be cared for and preserved. It is the work of the two preeminent church architects, Richard Upjohn in the 19th century and Ralph Adams Cram in the 20th. That fact makes it among the most important buildings in the state! It is the place where generations of people have come to look for God. That is what makes the place holy.

Please tell us about saving the Chandler House, and your involvement in that.

If I'm not mistaken, Mrs. George Byron Chandler was an active member of Grace Church. Her house, from the same era as Grace Church and located next door to the home of Alpheus Gay, the contractor who built Grace Church, has been preserved by an agreement between the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester and the Currier Museum of Art. This house is leftover from the heyday of Manchester, and evidence of the prosperity of a 19th Century industrial city. The craftsmanship is superb, and the interior has been called the best in the state! Its preservation

shows respect for the craftsmen and women, the materials used in its construction and the resources paid by the Chandlers. The community movement for its preservation brought together lots of groups, including the MHA, the Manchester Heritage Commission, the NH Preservation Alliance, and the Currier Museum. Most notable was a new generation of preservationists who started a petition on social media, and a “Save the Chandler House” Facebook group. What I did was a whole lot of talking about it, and post a bunch of photos to illustrate the value of the place, and not much else. The young people, some of whom were listening to me talk, took up the ball and ran with it. They appreciate history, beauty, and authenticity in their community, and I’m very proud of them!

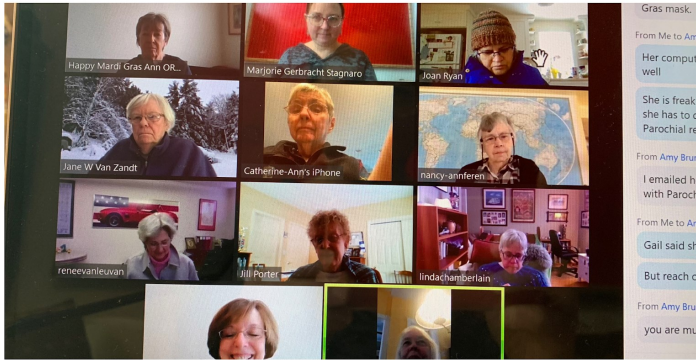
GEC Book Group Zoom Time

Your children are the greatest gift God will give to you, and their souls the heaviest responsibility He will place into your hands. Take time with them, teach them to have faith in God. Be a person in whom they can have faith. When you are old, nothing else you've done will have mattered as much.

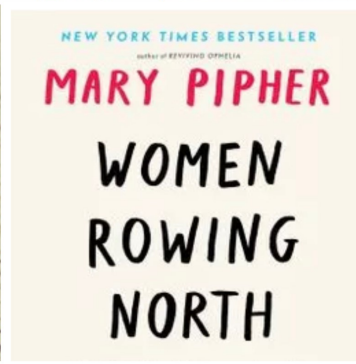
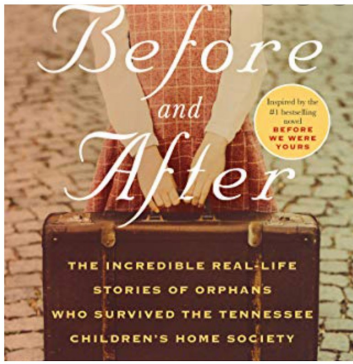
Lisa Wingate

Our parish book group continues to meet every third Tuesday of the month via Zoom to discuss books selected by our book-loving, small group. One of the great gifts of this small family within our Grace Church family is we challenge one another to "read outside our comfort zones." We bibliophiles often read within certain book genres, while our group calls us to read outside our usual favorite literary categories.

In February our group gathered to discuss a book co-authored by writers (and long time friends!) Lisa Wingate and Judy Christie. The book, *Before and After: The Incredible Real-Life Stories of Orphans Who Survived the Tennessee Children's Home Society*, focuses on the compelling, true stories of families who were impacted by the deceptive work of Georgia Tann, who from the 1920's to the 1950's ran a black-market baby business at the Tennessee Children's Home Society in Memphis, Tennessee. The book ended up being written as the result of the publication of Lisa Wingate's novel *Before We Were Yours*, which brought new awareness of Tann's lucrative career in child trafficking. So many Tennessee Children's adoptees read the novel and were compelled to contact Lisa Wingate and share how her writing impacted them. Because of this fact, Lisa and Judy were inspired to interview various adoptees and merge their learnings into their book *Before and After*. Special thanks to Susan Tonnar, who joined our discussion with very short notice to share



her own father's connection to cleaning up the chaos that Georgia Tann created. While some enjoyed how the book was compiled, others felt the book was confusing and poorly written. A few book group members shared the impact



of being adopted or having members of their family adopted and how this shaped their lives.

In March our group will gather again in our parish, Zoom room to discuss Mary Pipher's work *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age*. Mary Pipher, who wrote the book *Reviving Ophelia: Saving The Selves of Adolescent Girls* to share the joys and challenges of the lives of teenage girls, decided it was time to reflect on her own life, as well as tell the stories and learnings of women in their 60's and 70's. We hope you will consider joining us for this discussion, which will take place on Tuesday, March 16th at 12 noon.

Blessings and love,
Marjorie +

Addiction Nation: 5 Week Book Discussion on Zoom

The New Hampshire Council of Churches invites you to participate in a five-week book study on Tim King's *Addiction Nation: What the Opioid Crisis Reveals about Us*. Tim King is an author and Episcopalian who lives in New Hampshire with his family. The book tells his own story of addiction, faith, and what our opioid crisis reveals to us about our culture and politics.

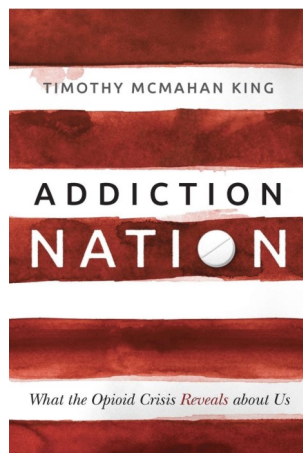
The book study will include an emphasis on how clergy and faith leaders speak about both addiction and recovery in our congregations. By the end of the study, participants should feel ready to preach and teach about addiction and engage in recovery ministries with confidence.

Each week participants will receive a reminder email with the Zoom link, as well as discussion questions for our time together. After each discussion, participants will receive a follow-up email with the Zoom chat log. Participants will be asked to volunteer to prepare a reflection ahead of each meeting to share with the group. The discussion will all occur on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM on the following dates: March 2nd, March 9th, March 16th, March 23rd, and March 30th, 2021 (Eastern Standard Time)

For more details go to <https://nhchurches.org/addictionnation/> or register to join this Zoom discussion via <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJepcumrqDkiHdy52teJjHfa08SBFTLSIFyg>

Thoughts and Reflections

I have long been interested in the Bible story which starts with Jesus entering into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover. You might remember some of the details. Jesus told two of his disciples to get a colt and bring it to him so he could ride it into Jerusalem. As he rode in, people shouted and cheered, and put branches and cloth on the road



for the colt to walk on. A couple of days later, Jesus was crucified. That's a big change from being welcomed to being put to death. I did some looking and found some information that helps explain the situation, and could even make it similar to events in more recent times. It was explained fairly well in "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah" by Alfred Edersheim (Book V, Chapter 1). The book was written in 1883.

According to Edersheim, "... the people shouting 'Hosanna' when Christ arrived were not the residents of Jerusalem. Instead, He rode in the company of pilgrims coming to the city for Passover. Because of the news about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and hopes that the Messianic Kingdom would soon begin, these pilgrims took to shouting and praising in their enthusiasm. Singing on the road to Jerusalem was not uncommon, and with their false ideas about a Rome-conquering Messiah, the enthusiasm spilled over into palm branches." (A)

There were strong differences of opinion between the residents of and visitors to Jerusalem. Edersheim describes it this way: "Most of the people in Jerusalem, to put it mildly, disagreed with the 'unlearned' rabble from the country. Among these types, we find the Pharisees, who urged Jesus to rein in the crowd. When Jesus refused and claimed the rocks would praise Him if the people didn't, their animosity only grew. Between these two opposing currents, Jesus rode into town." (B)

The following helps to explain the shift in opinion: "..... when those insiders arrested Jesus and brought Him to trial, the former supporters likely felt intimidated by the authority of the leaders. Supporting someone is much easier when there's a reduced chance of being imprisoned for it (e.g., Peter's denials). And perhaps some of those wrapped up in the enthusiasm for Jesus were just as quickly wrapped up in the fervor against Him." (C)

This next piece helps to describe and explain the deliberate efforts to make Jesus look bad: "At the height of his ministry and miracles, many Jews came to believe in Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God. Jewish leaders feared Jesus because of his growing followers. With the help of Judas Iscariot, Roman soldiers arrested Jesus and he was put on trial for claiming to be the king of the Jews. According to Roman law, the punishment for rebellion against the king was death by cruci-

fixion.” (D)

The trial proceeded, and then there was an effort to change the probable outcome: “Near the end of His trial, Pilate attempted a way to free Jesus. Pilate permitted the crowd to choose between a condemned convict named Barabbas and Jesus. Instead of choosing Jesus, as Pilate had expected, the crowd chose Barabbas for release. (E)

Quoting here from Mark 15:9-15 — *“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. (F)*

As I thought about the story and read through the comments and analysis, I saw what seemed to be connections to the present day. Part (A) could relate to the effect of social media on providing partial information, and people believing what they want to believe. Part (B) could relate to an “us vs. them” perspective, which relates to tribalism. Parts (C) through (F) could have a political perspective; specifically, when someone feels it is more beneficial for their political future if they don’t irritate those who could support or oppose them in the future.

I thought it was amazing how much things could change and still stay the same.

Dick Feren

Thank you From The Reverend Sandi Albom

Dear Friends,

Please forgive this belated thank you. We are so grateful for your continued prayers and love and I admit to being completely overwhelmed by your generosity as you sent us off to Western Massachusetts. The gift cards for Home Depot (which totaled just over



\$2,000) will come in very handy for appliances when we eventually settle into our own home.



Thanks to the fabulous Shelley Kesselman our home in Hooksett is sold and Bob and I are settled into the rectory in East Longmeadow. It's quite the change as I now live 0.6 miles from church. My commute to All Saint's in Peterborough took me an hour. I think my Subaru is breathing a sigh of relief!



St. Mark's is the parish I remember from when I was a member 20 years ago, open and affirming, with a heart for

outreach. We support the Church Without Walls ministry with the unhoused in Springfield and, as St. Mark's rector, I serve as their pastor one Sunday a month. It's an amazing ministry that brings worship to a park in downtown Springfield and then a shared outdoor meal.

Although our building remains closed for the time being, we have taken inspiration from Grace Church, and held our first Drive-By Communion service on the last Sunday in Epiphany. We have a large and flexible sanctuary and livestream six services a week, including Tuesday "Bedtime Stories with Rev. Sandi" and a Celtic Compline on Thursday evenings. Like us on Facebook, *St. Mark's East Longmeadow*, or *St. Mark's Media* on You Tube :)

Grace Church, you hold my heart, and I will always consider you my home. Bob and I send our love to you and pray for the day we will see you all in person to thank you with proper hugs. Until then...

Blessings to you for a holy Lent,
Sandi+

Memorandum

To: Grace Church Vestry and Congregation
From: Grace Endowment Committee
Date: February 12, 2021
Re: Investment in ESG Screened Stocks and Bonds

At its meeting on February 3, 2021, the Grace Church Endowment Committee voted to invest in a portfolio of ESG screened stocks and bonds beginning no later than Q2 of 2021. In this memorandum we set forth details relating to the nature of ‘ESG’ screening and provide context for why the Committee felt the decision was consistent with our fiduciary duties.

Environmental, Social and Governance (‘ESG’) Screened Portfolios
The committee voted to invest in ESG stocks and bonds. ESG investment options presented to the Committee were screened for ‘values based’ exclusions and ‘climate based exclusions. The values based exclusions cover companies with business involvement with controversial weapons, tobacco and civilian firearms. The climate based exclusions cover companies with business involvement in thermal coal and oil sands. More detailed information about this family of funds and the exclusions at issue can be found on the shares website.

Fulfilling Our Fiduciary Duty

As a committee we are mindful of the fiduciary duty we owe to Grace Church’s members. Part of this duty is to ensure the sound management, preservation and growth of the endowment funds. As part of fulfilling this duty, we evaluated the performance of presented ESG funds compared to non-ESG fund benchmarks. The results of this inquiry found that, based on information provided by the Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Advisors, the ESG index funds we reviewed have outperformed their benchmarks over a one, three and five year time period.

We also take seriously an additional part of this fiduciary duty, which is to ensure that activities taken in pursuit of these management aims do not violate our values as Christians, the mission of Grace Church or the teachings of our leaders or the precepts we use to guide our faith. We know that Grace Church’s mission is “to know Christ and make Christ known.” We appreciate Bishop Hirschfeld’s words reminding us

“to tend the Vine that is the mission of God in the world.” We understand that, as stated in the Book of Common Prayer’s catechism (p. 855), all our work must be part of an effort “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” Given this context for our work, we felt that a decision to employ the values and climate based criteria for investment brought the management of the endowment funds into greater alignment with the Church’s mission, the teachings of our leaders and the precepts we use to guide our faith and work.

Let’s Talk: Faith and Race

All are invited to hear local faith leaders address the ways in which our diverse faith communities teach and advise about the issue of race on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:45PM via Zoom. The talks will be followed by a guided opportunity to discuss the content of the presentations.

Featured Speakers are as follows:

Rabbi Beth Davidson*: Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Robert Dunn, Esquire*: Roman Catholic Diocese, Manchester

James McKim*: Episcopal Church of Manchester

Beyza Sariaydin: Turkish Cultural Center of Connecticut

(*Note: Prerecorded Courtesy NH Council of Churches, Concord, NH)



Please register via email: Interfaithwomennh@gmail.com (if needed, call 603-233-7760 for additional information) Once you register, you will be emailed Zoom program information. Print and save the email with the Zoom meeting connection Information for the program. Check in will begin at 6:30PM for the 6:45PM program.

Our Mission: To share religious beliefs, cultures, and traditions among women of diverse faiths to develop understanding and friendship among us and within our community.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following March birthday celebrants!

2	Chloe Dufresne Julie Alig Scala	13	Ashley Rousseau
3	Pat Andres	14	Stephanie Blevens Tracy Gillick
5	Max Anderson	17	Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro
7	Ann Hewins	19	Ed Zimmerman Daniel Blevens
8	Andrew Freshour	21	Pam Gallagher
9	David Kjellander Chris Turner Amber Mathison	24	Ayuen Leek
10	John Day Tory Serge	27	Debbie Hendry Noah Turner Megan Mathison
12	James Wyatt	30	Ellen Zimmerman

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.

Congratulations

The following people were elected at our first ever zoom annual meeting on January 31st:

Warden: Amy Brumfield

Vestry: Valerie Anderson, Barnaby Thomas, Hank Gagnon

Delegates to Southern Convocation/Diocesan Convention: Julie Alig Scala, Shelley Kesselman

Alternates to Southern Convocation/Diocesan Convention: Ann Hewins, Matthew Richards

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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 Absences: David Roy

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Rev. Marjorie opened the meeting at 7:02 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 Hank, seconded by Gail S, and was carried. The reports included are Clerk's Report (December. 2020), Rector's Report (December.2020/January 2021), Planning and Finance Reports (January,13 2021), and the Property Report (January 3, 2021).

The Vestry had received the financial reports from Gail A., including the sheet reference/comment page.

- Pledge Income is favorable to budget \$18.6K which include several prepayments for 2021 pledges.
- Short on revenue with no Easter and Christmas services.
- Received quarterly draw from endowments – have now filled the emergency fund.
- Operating fund has cash balance of \$120.3K.
- Endowment investment balance is \$5,338.6K (increase over the year).

VOTE: A motion was made by Valerie, seconded by Carol to approve the December Financial Report. The motion carried.

Gail reported that the 2021 budget shows a deficit of \$6,460. She had four ideas for how to deal with the deficit.

- Just let it ride.
- Adjust the security level.
- Take more than half of the Addison draw.
- Use the Emergency Fund

She favors letting it ride.

VOTE: A motion was made by Matt, seconded by Christopher to ac-

cept the 2021 budget with the \$6,460 deficit. The motion carried.

The Vestry has reviewed “Status of Action Items from Last Financial Review” and “Internal Control Questionnaire”; the financial will be included in the parochial report.

Security is working well. Mark Anderson gets a visual report each week. Gail requested that she be given a copy of the contract that we have with the security company.

Amy reviewed the recommendations of the HR committee concerning COLA.

One resident has left Grace House; another has now moved in. The garage space is no longer rented. There was a water leak from the improper use of the shower.

The Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom during our usual Sunday service. Those who are eligible to vote will be sent the voting list, the by-laws, and the list of candidates. The Annual Report will go out next week. All the nomination slots have been filled.

Gary York has been working on how to get Wi-Fi updated in the church. He has plans to shift some mechanicals as well. The necessary equipment (modem/routers) will be purchased so that we will not have a monthly rental charge from Comcast. He has determined the optimal locations throughout the church for their placement. We will need to have an electrician to do the work. He has suggested a company in Bedford to be used if there are any problems with the equipment in the future.

There were 55 people served in last Sunday’s drive by Eucharist.

There was a review of the Christmas services. The Christmas day service (Zoom) had 35 in attendance.

The Vestry discussed how to handle Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. Two services (one at 12:00 and one in the evening) and one time for imposition of ashes was preferred by the Vestry. The parishioners attending the Annual Meeting will be polled to see how they would prefer the imposition of ashes to be handled.

The insurance inventory needs to be updated; it was last done in 2009. Rev. Marjorie asked to let her know what items have been added since then. Photos of all the items need to be made.

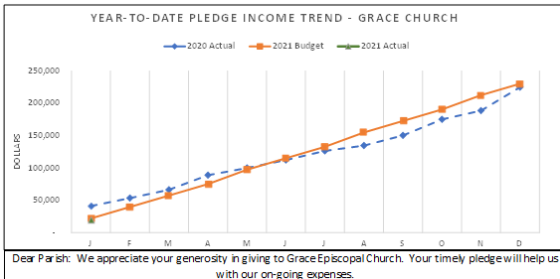
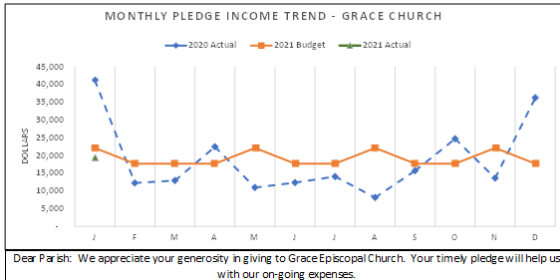
There is a second round of PPP funding that has been made available. Gail A will review qualifications and what needs to be done to apply; she will email the information to the Vestry.

The third Wednesday is the usual date for Vestry meetings – but in February it falls on Ash Wednesday. The Vestry opted to meet on Thursday that week.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next Vestry meeting February 18th.

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, Gail Schuman, Barnaby Thomas
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
Emery Freethey, Sexton
Susan Senneville, Nursery Care Giver
Ann Hewins, Grace House Manager

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