



# Grace Notes September 2021

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





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# Rector's Reflection

It still boggles my mind. Earlier this summer, on Sunday, July 11th, 2021, I celebrated my tenth anniversary at Grace Episcopal Church. I am beyond grateful for the wonderful cake (iced in my two favorite colors of orange and purple), the beautiful roses gifted to me that day, the lovely notes many of you sent, and the beyond generous financial gift that 66 parish families contributed to without my knowledge. Additionally you embraced pandemic protocols beautifully, attending either in person church or Zoom church that day to be present and wish me well.



Time has gone by so quickly. The parish children I once experienced as lively kindergartners are now young people learning to drive. My eldest child, who arrived in Manchester at the age of four, is about to start her freshman year at Pinkerton Academy. I have presided over and attended numerous worship services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and parish gatherings. Thankfully my computer (and phone!) both contain thousands of Kodak moments photographed over the years that serve as visual reminders of all the amazing things our parish has accomplished. We've made numerous building upgrades (an elevator, updates to our nursery and Sunday school classrooms, and most recently our steeple repair work), added various small group experiences (our parish's monthly book group discussions and Wednesday morning Bible Study time), and tried to expand our service to the Manchester community (examples of this include our Christmas Giving Tree program, Laundry Love, and the grant money we have gifted to local non-profit). We've worked to support one another in times of joy and times of struggle. We've found and fostered deep relationships with others at Grace Church and expanded our faith in Jesus Christ.

Over the past seventeen months your wardens, vestry, clergy, staff, music department, and numerous parish leaders have done their utmost best to be flexible, adaptive, and make thoughtful decisions as the pandemic ebbs and flows. Thanks to clear directives given to our diocese by Bishop +Rob in a recent letter, we've been asked that everyone who attends church or any indoor meeting wear a mask at all times. We will continue, for September and October, to offer in person worship every Sunday at 9:30 AM. We also will keep sending out a weekly link for people to watch and worship with us online through Zoom as well. We intend to restart (see articles authored by Mark Cleveland and Lyn Marino) our parish choir and Wednesday morning Bible Study, asking that those who participate wear a mask at all times and embrace appropriate social distancing parameters.

Note, our leadership continues to take baby steps. Not all parish activities will resume. For example, Linda Chamberlain and Karen West, co-convenors of our parish's knitting group, have wisely decided this year we will not have our annual knitting retreat. Other parish groups, like our parish book group, will remain on line, as will many of the various committee meetings our parish hosts.

Navigating this time is not easy. God created each and every one of us as unique individuals. How each one of us thinks and feels about COVID, vaccinations, and pandemic protocols varies. But we all can agree on two essential truths: we love one another AND want every-



one to stay safe and healthy.

You often hear me speak aloud a favorite bible verse during worship, Proverbs 3, verse 5: Trust in the Lord with your whole heart and lean not into your own understanding. I pray that we work to love one another by wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID, respect one another's views, encourage one another, and trust God will continue to guide us in the days ahead.

Much love,  
Marjorie +

## Random Thoughts

I thought I might be happily writing this post-covid. It's not post-covid, and I'm not happy. Since the beginning of the summer, several friends have died, though not from covid. August has seen several anniversaries of deaths. On the positive side, I find that I am more appreciative of my own relatively good health. Allan, too, gets good reports from his doctors.



At last, we are able to go camping. We hesitate to go to Ontario to be with family, until getting back across the border is more certain. There was a time when staying in Canada looked pretty good, but we're happy in NH now.

I've crafted more sermons and read more books this summer than I ever thought possible. Allan and I have signed up for an unprecedented number of OLLI classes, including the one Nancy-Ann Feren is offering. So, my mind still works, for which I'm thankful.

Doing supply at various churches has shown how uneven resources can be. Where one church may be land-locked, another may have a large parking lot, and lots of outdoor space. Early on I wore a mask for all but the sermon. There is very little oxygen inside a mask, I discovered.

More recently, a mask was required just for the prayer of consecration and distribution of the bread. At this writing, churches are going back to strict guidelines, or online only. I hope we won't be going through the whole Greek alphabet, before covid finally is under control. Even fully vaccinated, I am very careful, and wear a mask in public. I hope most folks will do the same.

Jane W Van Zandt+

# Getting To Know You : Shelley Kesselman

## Part Two

This month we are grateful to continue with questions and answers given by Shelley Kesselman in an interview with our Rector. Shelley serves as an active Lay Eucharistic Minister and reader at Grace Church, a devoted supporter of Laundry Love, is a member of GSOP (Granite State Organizing Project), and is also a stellar leader who represents our parish as the Southern Convocation lay leader/ coordinator has agreed to be interviewed by our Rector so we all can learn a bit more about her.



### **What do you love most about being an Episcopalian?**

You want that in 5000 words or less, right? Not sure that's possible, but here goes!

I love our roomy theology and our rich liturgical tradition that immerses us in a deep sense of the sacred with word, symbol, and music to create an overall experience that picks up where language leaves off. I love that my Jewish husband has always been welcome on his terms as a valued member of the parish community. I love that we understand that God's revelation to humanity is not confined to Scripture, even though it is rooted there. I love our understanding that salvation is something for the here and now as much as it is for the hereafter, and that we are God's agents in making that dream of God for the world an ever-greater reality.

### **You have been a strong leader and physical presence at our Laundry Love program. What is it about that program that makes your heart sing?**

I love the way that Laundry Love provides a framework in which we live out our baptismal promise to "respect the dignity of every human being." What a wonderful way to say to a struggling person, "You're a child of God, you deserve clean clothes, so we're going to see that you have that, and what's more, we're going to make it an enjoyable experience for you and your family!" We have forged real community with the Laundry Love congregation, doing things **with** people rather than **for** them, and seeing people not just problems. I love parish life and everything that entails. It is my deepest passion, the cornerstone of my spiritual life, and the seat of my own call, but I love that what we do on Sunday cultivates a love of God and neighbor that empowers us to take who we are and what we do about it into the world as Christ calls us to

do. That is liturgy in the fullest sense of the word. At Laundry Love we are both meeting and being the “Christ of the margins” with these folks, and it doesn’t get any better than that. It reminds me that for the Christian, all of life is liturgy, even the mundane stuff, and every encounter is an encounter with Christ. When we remember that, the Commonwealth of God gains more ground than we realize. There are other ways to do that, of course, but this is Grace’s way, and it works well. We aren’t doing chores, we’re having church, and it is good church! We just use different sacramental elements and pray with action instead of the BCP.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, and only allowed to have the power of three (3 books, 3 movies, 3 types of food) what would you bring?**

**Books:** *The Harper Collins Study Bible*, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and whatever bit of mind candy fiction I was reading at the time - especially if it’s Jodi Picoult. (Got to know how the story ends!)

**Movies:** *Shawshank Redemption*, *Steel Magnolias*, and Sophia Coppola’s treatment of Marie Antoinette. They aren’t necessarily all-time favorites (I’m not sure I even have all-time favorites, to be honest), but I catch different nuances every time, which keeps them engaging.

**Food:** Well, since I would probably have the fruit, veggies, and seafood that I love on an island, I would just need to bring coffee, chocolate, and some good San Francisco sourdough. (Extra sour, please.)

**What is your favorite passage of Scripture and why?**

Ah, that’s easy! Hands down it is the profound and poetic prologue to the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18) especially verse 14: *And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us*. Love it, love it, love it! Framing Jesus as the embodiment of that Divine Wisdom that gives order to all Creation and links the human mind to the mind of God gives me goosebumps every time and moves me to think about what difference that makes in how I live in this world that God blessed with God’s presence in it. (Why yes, I am an incurable incarnationalist!)

Runners up are Micah 6:8, and Psalm 138:8....and I need to stop or I’ll be putting together a Top Ten list, which was not what was requested!

**What is one fact people don’t know about you that you think would surprise people?**

I worked as a model (mumble mumble) years ago.

**You are currently working as a real estate agent. What made you decide to pursue this career path.**

Part expediency, part long-standing interest. I have always enjoyed the

house-hunting process and found a lot that interested me. There is an artistry to home design that I appreciate, and the transaction process itself is interesting, to say nothing of the people and situations one encounters along the way. When family circumstances determined that I needed to get a paying job, and needed to get one quickly, I decided this was a space in which I could pull my strengths and interests together in a way that provided me with enough flexibility to do the church work that is the seat of my deepest passion, cultivate those skills, and support the household.

I'm often mind boggled at how much my two worlds resemble each other. Real estate and parish ministry have much more in common than people would ever think, and each has helped me to do better in the other. If you can't truly love meeting people where they are in all life's messiness, if you can't take a long view of things, if you can't accept that you can bring your A game at 100%, and still not be able to control the outcome, if you can't shift gears and adapt to changing situations and paradigms with some measure of good grace, AND draw healthy boundaries, think long and hard about pursuing either vocation, because that's what it takes. That makes for mighty challenging work, but it is also rewarding work to help people find where they belong, whether it is their residential home or their spiritual home. Both domains are all about relationships and a sense of belonging.

**If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?**

It's Bonnie Scotland for the win!! My family is Scottish, and my innate spirituality has a Celtic streak a mile wide. Therefore, I have always wanted to go to Scotland and explore my spiritual, cultural, and familial roots a bit.

## **GEC Book Group Continues to Survive and Thrive on Zoom**

Our parish book group continues to be a lively and thoughtful virtual space as we continue to gather together monthly on Zoom. Special thanks to our warden Amy Brumfield who constructs our Zoom, book group invites and hosts our meetings. Kudos to the amazing Jane Van Zandt who comes up with amazing questions, quotes, and summary statements for every book we read. Finally, thanks to Christine Stevens and our rector who alternate in sending out our monthly Zoom invites, discussion questions authored by Jane, and "save the

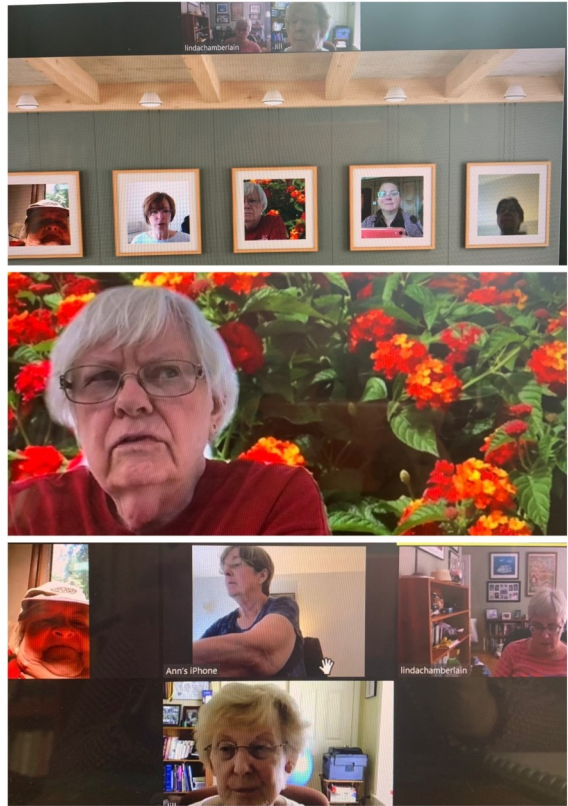


date" reminders emails.

Due to summer travels and activities, our July and August meetings had fewer participants than normal. However, those of us who miss our book discussions from time to time often still read the books we collectively have decided to discuss as a group. In July we read a recommendation from Marjorie's sister Amy (a librarian who often has to recommend books for book group gatherings): *Beartown*. This is the third novel our church book has read by the Swedish author, Fredrick Backman. On the surface this book seems to be about a

declining youth hockey team in a small town. But it is also a masterful novel that delves into the relationships between coaches and players, parents and children, bosses and employees, rich and poor. There are many wonderful wisdom statements throughout the text: "Never again do you have the sort of friends you have at 15." "No one ever said life was going to be easy." "People feel pain and it shrinks their souls." "Sorrow is mental, but longing is physical. One is a wound. The other, an amputated limb."

In August, seven of us gathered together to discuss a book recommended by Jill Porter: *Lilac Girls*. This remarkable novel was incredibly well researched and written by Martha Hall Kelley. A story of the experience of the Holocaust is told through the voices and experiences of three women: two of whom were actual people (NY socialite Caroline Ferriday and a German doctor, Herta Oberheuser) as well as Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager who endures immense suffering and torture in Ravensbruck, the notorious concentration camp for women. While some liked the book



more than others, we all agreed the Holocaust continues to be a tragedy many people are drawn to learn about and discuss.

All are welcome to join us for our next book group meeting which will take place at noon on Tuesday, September 21st to discuss *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Additionally, if you are looking for a list of books to crack open here are the books our group collectively has decided to read in the coming months:

For 2021

September - *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate

October - *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann

November - *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

December - *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand

For 2022

January - *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson

February - *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

March - *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

April - *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

May - *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan

June – *CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson

July - *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah

August - *A Good Apology: Four Steps to Make Things Right* by Molly Howes, Ph. D.

## Over the Fence

Greetings from Grace House! Life is busy next door as our City Year Corps members get ready for the coming school year.

As usual our new tenants come from a variety of places: Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida, Colorado and California. Their enthusiasm for the upcoming year of service always inspires me.



As our new group gets settled in, feel free to say hi or deliver some baked goods, they are already working very hard. The contribution they make to our most challenged students cannot be underestimated.

Ann Hewins—Grace House Mgr

# First In-Person Worship Service Since The Start of The Pandemic



Thank you to all those who attended (both on Zoom and in person) our first in-church worship experience since the pandemic's start on Sunday, July 4th, 2021. We continue to give thanks that parishioners can worship together in a blended prayer experience.

Special thanks to parishioner Gary York, who managed and made the WiFi install into our nave happen.

## What is the best route?

If you go for a walk in an unfamiliar area, you will almost certainly notice some possible routes that might be easier to follow than others. If the area is new to you, and you want to get through it, I'm sure the tendency would be to follow what looks to be the simplest or easiest path. The only problem



is that what sometimes looks like it might be a good route isn't as good as expected. Maybe it ends up being blocked by something.

Some times, a GPS can be helpful, but they are not perfect. More than once, we have found ourselves following GPS directions and going down a road that kept getting rougher and narrower until it ended up in a woods or field with no way to go, so we had to drive back out and try a different route. Be prepared in case things go wrong.

Many years ago Nancy-Ann and I were on a trip, and using a GPS to help us find the best route. At one point, I decided that I didn't like the route that was suggested. Based on a map, I chose a different route. As I went down the route I had decided on, the GPS kept adding minutes onto the estimated arrival time. After a while, it had added about 10 or 15 minutes. A couple of minutes later, I got to the major road that I had headed for. At that instant, the GPS dropped about 30 minutes from the estimated arrival time. The choice I had made was better than the route the GPS had wanted me to take. Doing extra research can sometimes pay off.

Now, how does this relate to life in general? It is often the tendency to try a particular path for your life, such as career, marriage, etc, that seems to be the easiest. However, it might not be the best. If you make a choice that looks like the simplest and easiest, you may end up disappointed. If you carefully study the options, and then choose a path based on that information, you are likely to do much better.

This can even apply to political choices and church choices. Political choices are best if based on facts and not just opinions. A church that is diverse, open, welcoming, and accepting is the best choice. Grace Church is a good example of a good choice.

Dick Feren

## Choir Announcement

With hope, joy, and thanksgiving the Music Ministry Team announces that the Grace Church Choir will resume its ministry on Sunday, September 12, at the 9:30 service! The resumption of this ministry, so significant in the experience of Grace Church, will be presented using our best understanding of the disciplines and requirements necessary in offering our choir AND congregation a healthy and sa-



cred experience.

Choir rehearsals will begin on the previous Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 pm in the Great Hall, where we will ask all participants to wear a mask and maintain appropriate distancing protocols. Additionally, rehearsing in the Great Hall will enable the Choir members to rehearse in a space that can be more effectively ventilated and allow for more active air exchange.

The Choir welcomes all who are interested in participating in this ministry. Anyone who might be willing to join the Choir is encouraged to contact Mark Cleveland, Choir Director.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Mark A. Cleveland  
Choir Director

## **Manchester Faith Communities Food Drive**

Every year in the fall the GMCA (Greater Manchester Clergy Association) advertises a food drive across all Manchester city faith communities to help collect canned food donations for New Horizons, as well as other local food pantries in need. Over the past several years this ingathering of resources has been headed up by our capable and faithful colleagues at Temple Adath Yeshurun's rabbi, Beth Davidson, and this year temple member Judith Jolton.

Please be generous and bring all food donations to Temple Adath Yeshurun's Parking Lot (located at 152 Prospect Street Manchester, NH 10304) on Friday, September 17th from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Recommended donations are as follows:

Fruit juice – 64ounce bottles

Tuna- 6.5 ounce canned

Ground coffee

Healthy, individually wrapped snacks

Oatmeal – 42-ounce containers

Family sized: Salad dressings, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo squeeze bottles

Baking items (flour, sugar, etc.)



Breakfast items (no cereal needed)  
Canned protein  
Macaroni and cheese  
Drinks  
Dessert mixes  
Crackers/ Cookies  
Beans, Rice  
Fruit cups  
Applesauce cups  
Granola Bars

## **Adult Ed: Bible Study**

On Wednesday, October 6, our Adult Education Bible Study series will resume at 11:00 am in the Library. Participants are asked to mask and observe physically distanced seating.

Our course of study will be “Death, Dying, and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures,” presented via video by Professor Mark Berkson of Hamline University. Dr. Berkson is Professor and Chair in the Religion Department and frequently makes presentations on religious issues at conferences, universities, community meetings, and churches, and has been featured on television and radio news shows. His work has appeared in such prestigious journals as the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Teaching Theology & Religion*, and *Buddhist-Christian Studies*.



In our study, we will explore how great faiths, philosophies, and cultures all over the world perceive death – and existence – in these life-affirming lectures. Some of the topics in our 24-lecture series include:

- Is it rational to fear death?
- Understanding and coping with grief
- Approaches to dying well
- Killing in war and the pacifist challenge
- Capital punishment
- Near-death experiences
- The pursuit of immortality

For more information or to enroll in our course, contact Lyn Marino (please contact the church office for Lyn’s contact information).





*Mission*

*Changing lives through the power of  
Learning, Sharing, and Making Music.*

July 26, 2021

Grace Episcopal Church  
106 Lowell Street  
Manchester, NH 03101

Dear Trustees,

I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for Grace Episcopal Church's very generous grant of \$10,000.00 to the Manchester Community Music School.

Over the last year, MCMS has worked hard to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and continue to support our faculty, students, music therapy clients, and outreach partners in new and innovative ways. Every year MCMS receives more and more requests for financial assistance. In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and exceedingly high unemployment, we have seen an even greater need. Your gift combined with those from other generous donors will help us to meet this need and make it possible for anyone wishing to study music or benefit from music therapy services to do so regardless of a family's financial situation and will assist MCMS in continuing to do this in the safest way possible.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, students and their families, I thank you for your generosity and for helping the Music School fulfill its mission of *Changing Lives Through the Power of Music!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane DiPersio", is written over a horizontal line.

Diane DiPersio  
Senior Director



July 27, 2021

Grant Committee  
Grace Episcopal Church  
106 Lowell Street  
Manchester, NH 03101

Dear Grace Episcopal Church Grant Committee,

We are most grateful to the Grace Episcopal Church for the generous \$10,000 grant to IINE-Manchester. This general operating support will help ensure that refugees and immigrants in Greater Manchester benefit from a continuum of critical services that provide them with pathways to a brighter future for themselves and their families.

IINE transitioned to remote, emergency assistance in March 2020, when COVID-19 suddenly altered the way we live in New England. Throughout this challenging time, we have continued to serve 2,500 people in Greater Boston and Lowell, MA, and Manchester/Nashua, NH. Our critical COVID-19 response has included expanded distance learning programs, virtual legal services, and support navigating medical care and a changed labor landscape. Our teams have helped hundreds of people secure unemployment and other benefits to stay afloat in this unprecedented time and, when possible, to return to work.

Additionally, with the support of donors like Grace Episcopal Church, IINE has provided emergency cash assistance, gift cards, and rent support to over 1,300 individuals – support that has saved lives and kept people safe. This past fall, we re-opened our offices for limited on-site services, with significant safety measures in place, while continuing to meet the needs of our communities remotely, as well.

Thank you for believing in refugees and immigrants and for supporting our work in these unprecedented times. We look forward to reporting on our progress to you next year.

With gratitude,

Jeffrey Thielman  
President & CEO

Dear Friends- Please extend  
our thanks for this wonderful  
gift to everyone on the  
Grant Committee! - Jeff

*The International Institute of New England is a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization.  
No goods or services were received in connection with this gift.*

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LOWELL: 101 Jackson Street, Suite 2, Lowell, MA 01852 | 978-459-9031  
MANCHESTER: 470 Pine Street, Lower Level, Manchester, NH 03104 | 603-647-1500

ONLINE: [iine.org](http://iine.org)  
EMAIL: [info@iine.org](mailto:info@iine.org)

## Girls At Work - New and Remarkable Space Visited By Our Parish Leaders

Thanks to the leadership of Vestry member Meghann White and our Parish Grant Committee (Chair, Meghann White, Parish Wardens Christopher Messier and Amy Brumfield, Linda Heath, David Roy, Nancy Johnson, and our Rector), our church made a donation

of \$10,000 to support the ministry of Girls At Work (GAW). Other local organizations that recently received grants from us are IINE (the International Institute of New England) and the Manchester Community Music School.

On Wednesday, August 18th our parish leadership was invited to tour the headquarters of the Girls At Work (GAW), now located at 200 Bedford Street in Manchester, New Hampshire. Nancy Johnson and Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro accepted this invitation and represented our parish. The spacious facility took over a year to build and is truly a modern miracle as all the construction occurred during the pandemic. The initial cost of the build was projected to be \$612,000, but thanks to the capable leadership of GAW'S founder Elaine Hamel and Executive Director Sue Champagne and the generosity of time, talent, and treasure from many supporters, the build cost only \$200,000. Repurposed windows, rescued items from the legendary "SNHU furniture graveyard", generous donors, construction volunteers, and corporate sponsorship from the company Timberland (who produces clothing, shoes, and construction work boots) made this amazing, new space come into being.



A talented builder and contractor, Elaine has mentored and taught over 15,000 girls, through day and week long camps, how to use

tools, work together, and build inner confidence. The workspace we visited was a dream come true for Elaine, Sue, and their Board of Directors, who wanted to create a space for children and adults to become comfortable with power tools, be inspired by one another, and learn how to build. The space includes a high level air filtration system, multiple classrooms, a gorgeous boardroom, office spaces, a "Kindness Closet" (which houses shoes, backpacks, clothing, and school supplies for children in need), and an additionally 8,000 square feet of space still to renovate. Plans for a STEM classroom and hopefully new spaces that will house other teaching trades are in the works as well.

If you would like to donate to and/or learn more about Girls At Work please visit their website at <https://girlswork.org/> Additionally, a remarkable article was published on NHPR's website that can be viewed here: <https://www.nhpr.org/word-of-mouth/2018-08-03/building-girls-up-with-power-tools>

## Grateful for God's Creatures

On Sunday, August 22nd our Rector, Warden Christopher Messier, and Shelley Kesselman admired two doves frolicking in our courtyard after worship. They then noticed this pair of doves had made a permanent nest in the eaves over our red door.

Additionally, Bernie Tonnar noticed a squirrel looking through one of our nave windows that was listening closely to our service.

Thanksgiving Prayer for Animals: O God, we thank you for making the animals to brighten our lives. Help us to save them from danger as Noah did. Help us to love them and care for them as St. Francis did. And when we see the animals that you have made, help us to remember that you are holy and worthy of praise. In the name of the Father (who thought up the giraffe and the zebra) and of the Son (who was named after the beautiful white Lamb) and the Holy Spirit (who came to us as a Dove.) Amen.

Photo credits: Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro and Bernie Tonnar





## Mail from Nancy-Ann & Dick Feren

Did you know that sometimes our parish gets mail? Our parish family just received this postcard from Nancy-Ann and Dick Feren, who are camping and exploring the western part of our country. They wrote:

*Lewis & Clark had to portage heavily loaded canoes 18 miles around 5 huge waterfalls like this one. How they made this entire trek is almost beyond belief. We spent last night with a college friend in western Montana. We're hoping the smoke won't prevent us from continuing west. See you in September!*



## “Pep Talk” with Roger Bleau

Congratulations to the remarkable and talented Roger Bleau who is now hosting a local television show titled “Pep Talk” on Manchester public TV on Channel 23. The show can be seen on Thursdays at 1 pm, Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 1:30 pm, or Sundays at 10 pm.

Pictured: Roger Bleau with his most recent interview candidate, his granddaughter Lilly Tague-Bleau



## Nuptial Bliss

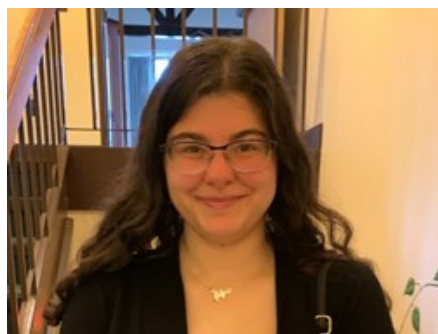
Congratulations to Ann Hewins and Anne Harvey who were married at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church on Saturday, July 17th, 2021. The Reverend Sandi Albom served as the officiant, Ken Grinnell as the organist, the Reverend Jane Van Zandt as an attendant, and the Reverend Alan Knight as a lector. Many Grace Church parishioners were in attendance and at the wedding banquet our Rector prayed the following prayer:

Audrey Hepburn said, "If I get married, I want to be very married." Ann and Anne, we who love you are glad that after 41 years you are officially very married. May you hold tight to each other as wife and wife. May you be best friends for the rest of your life. May the love that you share give you strength. May the life that you share bring you joy. May the faith that you share bring you peace. May this wedding feast remind us how truly blessed we are and inspire us to love and serve others. AMEN



## Congratulations Elizabeth Cleveland

Best wishes and much success to Elizabeth Cleveland, who, right after graduating from Kenyon College, was recruited and hired by Carnie, Sandoe & Associates in Boston. This company works with schools across America to help educational organizations recruit faculty, leaders, and does strategic consulting.





Elizabeth will be working in-person two days in Boston and the other days remotely, which will allow her to rejoin our parish choir.

Welcome home, Elizabeth! We are so proud of you!!

## New Acolyte About To Start

Congratulations to Kaydance Lassonde who will acolyte for the very first time (under the compassionate guidance of Andrew Freshour) this coming September during in-person worship. Kaydance played the baby Jesus in our December, 2011 Christmas pageant and is now all grown up. We are grateful for her willingness to serve and her grandmother's (Linda Lassonde's) support.



## Driving People



Congratulations to parishioners Mannix Muir and Rachel Otto who both are finally in the driver's seat! May God keep them safe when they are on the road.

## Congratulations Micah Brumfield

After many years of practice, lessons, diligence, and hard work, Micah Brumfield, daughter of Drs. Amy Brumfield and Lisa Atkinson, is officially an apprentice black belt.

Micah is still two years from officially becoming a full black belt, but is now enrolled in a black belt prep class. Take note: most members of the class are adults!



# Congratulations Amanda O'Keefe Murchinson

Congratulations to parishioner, Amanda O'Keefe Murchinson, whose 6 year old horse Lizzy (aka One Rare Moment) won first place/was named Adult Three Gated Show Pleasure World Champion in Division 1 on Sunday, August 22nd, 2021 at the World's Championship Horse Show in Louisville, Kentucky. Over 2,000 entries compete for titles and prize money during the Kentucky State Fair held each year in August.



# Thanks to Marlene and Christine



Special thanks to Parish Administrator Marlene Thompson and parishioner Christine Stevens (and her grandchildren!) for coming and seeing Zachary Stagnaro perform the role of Olaf the Snowman in *Frozen Kids*.

If you are out and about in Manchester (or elsewhere!) with fellow Grace Church family members, please share your Kodak moments with our Newsletter editor and/or Rec-tor so we can publish your photos in a future publication.

# Special thanks to The Reverends Jane Van Zandt and Allan Knight

Special thanks to The Reverends Jane Van Zandt and Allan Knight for attending Zachary Stagnaro's summer dance recital *Mary Poppins* at Saint Anselm's Dana Center in late June. Our parish is full of amazing people who love and support children in many places and spaces. Thanks be to God!



Lord, we thank you for all those who daily and deliberately choose to love and support the children of our world. For those who feed, clothe, love, and impart moral truths to the littlest ones, we give thanks. For moms, dads, grandparents, chosen family and friends of all ages, identities, cultures who care, teach, and encourage children, we give thanks. For those who mentor, foster, counsel, build confidence in our young people, we give thanks. May the adults of your world find the courage and strength needed to seek out and support children who need joy, security, and warmth. May we be as brave as our Saviour Jesus, who said, "Let the little children come to me." In

Christ's name we pray. AMEN (Prayer crafted by our Rector)

## Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following September birthday celebrants!

3 Andrew Cline	18 Karen Grant
4 Mark Anderson	19 Justin Otto
6 James Everett	20 Jill Porter
8 Doug Chamberlain	25 Barbara Hermann
Andrew Fox	27 Sue Critz
13 Kaitlin Taylor	30 Rob Fox
Justin Otto	Genevieve Turner
14 Bruce Thomas	
Joan Holleran	

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*

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.

# Vestry Minutes of 6-16-21

In attendance: Gail Austin, Carol Cote, Reverend Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Ken Kjellander, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, Gail Schuman, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner, Meghan White

Excused absence: Hank Gagnon, Nancy Johnson, David Roy

Opening Prayer: by Reverend Marjorie

Vote on Assistant Clerk: Eileen Suckley designated to serve for this meeting  
Motion by Gail Schuman. Seconded by Carol Cote. Motion passed.

Reading of the Norms

Voting Consent Agenda.  
Motion by Christopher, Seconded by Teddi McIntosh. Motion passed.

Review of Financial Reports

Our pledge receipts dropped significantly in May. We are still seven hundred dollars ahead as many parishioners paid in advance. We have a healthy cash balance in the operating fund of \$98K although this dropped by \$24K when pledges fell off last month.

Our Endowment Fund balance was \$5,497K as of the end of March. As of the end of May, it reached \$5,729.

Gail will send a report at the end of June detailing breakdowns by vendor. This should be helpful as the Vestry begins budget preparations for 2022.

Motion to accept Financial Reports by Barnaby Thomas. Seconded by Valerie Anderson. Motion passed.

Old Business

The audit is proceeding according to plan. Sylvia Petro and an associate will complete a three day data collection session on site with Gail on 6/17/21. Recently the AICPA (whose audit standards are non negotiable) implemented stricter standards on internal review of journal entries. This change can be implemented with relative ease. We anticipate a report in July and it appears we are on target for the estimated

cost of the audit.

With regard to grants: Last year we established a \$58K emergency fund. Currently, we have \$19K not allocated for a specific purpose and can anticipate receipt of June draw of \$20K.

Meaghan reports that the committee has received three requests for grants.

- Girls at Work has requested \$7.5K
- Manchester Community School \$10K (\$4K for scholarships, \$5K air purifiers, \$1K chamber group)
- IINE has requested \$10K. (Upon investigation, their indirect costs for general overhead are 10%) There are five programs (Refugee resettlement, adult education, career and employment services, legal immigration services, amplifying immigrant voices) and we can specify which programs we wish to support.

In addition, we also have an account earmarked for refugees in the amount of \$3.4K that can be utilized as well. It was suggested that Outreach might wish to utilize these funds. Reverend Marjorie will confer with Committee Chair Nancy Ann Feren.

Motion to fund all three grant requests at their designated amounts and to confer with Outreach Committee made by Christopher Messier. Seconded by Gail Schuman. Motion passed.

### New Business

Although carpet cleaning of the office and library is typically done in summer, this work has been postponed due to low levels of traffic during the pandemic.

Discussion of Re-Opening. August 29 has been set as the target date with a Zoom service at 9 and an In Person option at 10:30. There will be no coffee hour. Chris Turner will draft an informational letter with rationale for distribution to the parish. A Re-Opening Committee has been established and will create a set of protocols for Vestry review by July 30.

Morning Prayer and Wednesday Bible Study may resume after the August 29<sup>th</sup> opening.

Motion to establish these changes by Christopher Messier, seconded by Valerie Anderson. Motion passed.

2022 staffing levels – executive session

Property Update. Steeple repair is proceeding on plan. Workmen are nearly finished replacing missing shingles and repointing stone. They will move on to the next phase of replacing louvers.

Outreach and Vestry Visibility

Next person for spotlight interview: Shelley Kesselman

Gail Schuman has requested a replacement for her service on Kitchen Committee.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Suckley

The following email votes were made by the Vestry after the June Vestry meeting:

EVOTE: to support the investment of \$5000 to Millville to do necessary exploratory work for our parish kitchen renovation.

EVOTE: to continue using Securitas Security for now (backdating to 12/1/2020, until fencing is adequately addressed by property).

EVOTE: that all present at an indoor church function need to be fully masked - over the mouth and nose. If you do not wish to wear a mask or cannot wear a mask due to a medical disability, then you are invited to log on to our church service via Zoom as our Reasonable Accommodation.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Johnson, Clerk

## Vestry Special Meeting on Reopening

June 20, 2021; 4:00 to 5:30 PM

Those present: Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Christopher Messier, Amy Brumfield, Chris Turner, Carol Cote, Ken Kjellander, Barnaby Thomas, Gail Schuman, Teddi McIntosh, Valerie Anderson



Excused absences: Hank Gagnon, Meghann White, Nancy Johnson, Gail Austin, David Roy

Motion by Amy: Chris Turner pro tem secretary. Seconded by Gail Schuman. Yea: 10, Nay: 0.

New information has come to light since last Vestry meeting on Wednesday 6/16/21:

- Supply clergy previously stated they were not willing to lead in-person services, have now indicated they are comfortable doing so.
- Bishop's letter dated Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via e-mail to NH Clergy, Wardens, and Lay Pastors relaxes the Diocese's requirements for in-person services and discontinues the Diocese approval process for reopening procedures.

Reopening date: July 4, 2021. 9 AM Zoom, 10:30 AM in-person service

Reopening policy:

- No pre-registration required
- Every other pew blocked off for physical distancing
- Masks encouraged but not required
- Encourage waving (vs. direct contact) for the Peace, and understanding of those who make other choices regarding masks
- Bulletins are online only, opportunity to print and bring with you. A few copies will be available in the back of the church.
- In-person singing: soloists up front. People are strongly encouraged to wear masks if they choose to sing along. Please respect our immunocompromised brothers and sisters, some of whom do plan to return to in-person services.
- Communion: Host will be handed to parishioners by the Priest who sanitizes in advance visibly. Lay Eucharistic minister/s will be responsible for overseeing disposable containers filled with wine. These will be located at tables at the far end of the altar rails on each side
- No child-care will be provided (Susan Senneville needs to be contacted and told this) for the summer.
- Two readings per service (OT or Epistle plus the Gospel)
- Morning Prayer, Bible Study, other in-person activities, and full Choir will resume on September 12 assuming public health guidance continues to relax.

- Coffee hour to be held outdoors during the summer in courtyard and cancelled in the event of rain. Coffee hour volunteer brings iced tea and/or lemonade and simple snacks. Single person serves all drinks and food, oversees cleanup.

#### Zoom services:

- Marjorie will continue to host a Morning Prayer meeting on Zoom when she is present, in addition to the in-person Eucharist service. During her vacation, supply clergy will run in-person HE service only.
- Marjorie is researching options for holding additional Zoom services in parallel with in-person services the weeks of 7/25 through 8/15

#### Dates and Times:

- 7/4; 7/11; 7/18: 9:00 AM Zoom, 10:30 AM in-person
- 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15 – 10:30 AM in person only
- 8/22 and beyond - TBD

#### Coordination required prior to in-person services

- Altar Guild
- Ushers
- Acolytes
- Hospitality
- Worship Participants

Notification email to go out to Parish this week, signed by Warden, Vestry, and the Rector.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Turner

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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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### Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

September 22, 2021