



Grace Notes November 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

Our family relocated to Hooksett just over a year ago. There are still boxes to be unpacked sitting in our unfinished basement, yet we are making strides to make our new condo feel more like a home. Zach, my son, has hung photographs on the wall and a new rug was recently purchased for our living room.



One Monday morning in the middle of October I decided to go shopping in order to buy soil and plants to help complete a home improvement project I had intended to do for the past several months: the installation of a living wall. Upon entering my local Home Depot I was stunned to see a massive display, not for Halloween, but for Christmas! Numerous lit, fake trees were on display, ready for purchase. I was aghast.

It's nearly the end of October, yet our parish music team and Vestry are already planning for Christmas as well. The pandemic has impacted our parish patterns tremendously, yet we are grateful to you, our parish family, who continue to give of themselves with time, talent, and treasure both in our Zoom room and in our nave. Our parish leaders have decided to have both these worship options for our celebration of Christ's birth.

On Friday, December 24th this year we will continue to celebrate Jesus' nativity with a 4 PM family worship/children friendly service. This service will offer Christmas carols, a children's homily, the placement of the creche figures, and Holy Eucharist. Worship will take place in person in our nave and as well as on Zoom.

On Friday, December 24th we will also have an 8 PM Christmas Lessons and Carols service in person in our nave with 5 readings, carols, and numerous musical prayers that will include organ, piano, small vocal ensembles, and a few choral offerings. This service will focus on the re-telling of Christ's birth, but will not include a sermon or Holy Eucharist. A Zoom link will also be available for this service.

On Saturday, December 25th at 9:30 AM we will offer a Zoom ONLY service for all to attend virtually. This service will be streamed from our

nave where our staff will be present to lead a Morning Prayer service with music, worship, and a sermon.

Finally, on Sunday, December 26th at 9:30 we will offer both in person worship (again with a Zoom link!) for everyone. At this service Holy Eucharist will be offered, as will Drive By Eucharist following the liturgy.

Whether you stay put during the holidays or travel, we hope you will join your parish family to give thanks for the gift of Christ on earth and continue to strive and pray for peace on earth, good will to all.

Much love,
Marjorie +

Humility

In a recent Gospel passage, James and John said to Jesus, “We want you to do for us whatever we ask of you”. Pretty presumptuous of them. Jesus doesn’t blink an eye. “What is it you want me to do for you?” Then, the truth comes out. Despite travelling with Jesus, and seeing him as a humble, itinerant preacher, they see him as on his way to becoming a mighty ruler, and they want to get in on the ground floor. But Jesus isn’t into power.

His ministry is to spread love, to help those who need him, and to preach peace, and justice, and kindness. He tells them that “whoever wishes to be great among you, must be servant of all”. Not what they expected. Not what they wanted to hear.

That passage always reminds me of how I happened to choose the bishop who ordained me to priesthood. It was at General Convention in 1982, and I had recently been ordained to the diaconate. I was sitting at a table outside an auditorium, selling tickets to an event of some sort. A tall man approached me to buy a ticket. Somehow, he indicated that he thought I was a priest. I was wearing a collar. I answered him apparently apologetically: “No, I’m just a deacon.” He knelt in front of me, and it was then that I noticed that he was a bishop. He said, “When you are a priest, you will still be a deacon, as I am. We are called to serve others. And to be humble in doing so.”

A day or so later, when I was working in the House of Bishops, I spotted him. When the session was over, I asked him if he would preside at my ordination to priesthood. Despite the Church’s red tape, everything eventually fell into place, and this kind, gentle, humble man flew in from Western Missouri to ordain me.

I have always been attracted to those who are humble. Recently, I drove to



Cambridge to attend a voice recital of the well-known baritone, Thomas Jones. Tom was giving the final recital of his career. In the audience were faculty and staff from Harvard, where he teaches; folks from Tremont Temple in Boston, where he was music director for 12 years; members of Old Cambridge Baptist Church where he has been Minister of Music for many years, high school classmates, college classmates, and many who have performed with him in this country and abroad. And, though it was his recital, he gave credit to every person who had helped him in any way on his journey. And he gave thanks to God for the gift of his voice. “My faith is central to who I am”, he said. He is the epitome of humility.

My dear friend, Kim, rose quickly through the ranks of the Baltimore County Police Department. She was intelligent, compassionate, and proficient in every task her job demanded. But she gave credit to others for every accolade she received. And she thanked God for her abilities.

I think that we sometimes forget to give thanks for the gifts we have been given. A beautiful prayer, which we seldom use, begins:

Accept our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. (BCP pg 836)

Soli Deo Gloria! To God alone be the glory!

Jane Van Zandt

Grateful We Got To Know and Love Greg Gagnon

This month, in place of our usual, “Getting to Know You” series of interviewing a Grace Church parishioner, we are featuring Greg Desaulniers-Gagnon, whose memorial service was celebrated at Grace Episcopal Church on Friday, September 23rd, 2021. Our rector asked many people, “Can you describe for me the who and how of Greg Gagnon?” Here are their responses.

Moe Egan Thomas

Thank you for the gift of true friendship. Stepping into your presence was like putting on a cozy sweater in fall; soft, gentle, comforting, and warm. I have a thousand pictures of your smile filed away in my mind; they are a gift to be re-

pened a dozen times as needed.

Thank you for showing us what a true, committed loving relationship looks like. The love you shared with your husband, the bond you shared, the dedication to each other, the give and take, of being yourself and part of someone else will always be my guide to how to do marriage right.

Thank you for your gentle but stalwart faith. Your walk with God was a beacon to all who knew you. The Bible tells us, they shall know we are Christians by our love. “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). You were a living, breathing example of this verse.

I will miss you terribly. We will miss you terribly. We had visions of growing old alongside you and your husband. We will miss your light in this world, but we have each been given a bit of your light to carry on your behalf till it's our turn to make the transition. You have left behind a legacy in my heart and soul that I will be forever grateful for throughout my days; a gentle, quiet affirmation that God is among us, that we are His hands and feet on this planet, and that we will join Him and our beloveds who went before us in Eternity.

Namaste, dear sweet friend. (Also, you were the only white guy who said Namaste like they meant it).

Eileen Suckley

One of the things I will miss most about Greg was his unwillingness to engage in quick, surface conversation. He was willing to make time to delve into an issue. There were comfortable pauses where both parties take time to think. In a world of sound bites and snappy retorts, that is both rare and precious.

The Reverend Jane Van Zandt+

My impression of Greg is a calm, peaceful presence. As a hospice nurse, I saw all kinds of responses from patients, their friends, and family members. I believe Greg made the right decision for him. And his supporters have been just that - supporting his decision. It's tough when a person wants no more medical intervention, and people keep saying come on, you have to fight this. You can do it. It's an awful way to go through the dying process. And going to the Hos-



pice House was a wise decision, too. I worked there for ten years, before I retired, and I perceived it as a peaceful place, both indoors, and out in the garden. It meant that Hank could just be a loving husband, but could still help in Greg's care, if he wanted to. I think it was at the Pentecost drive-by that Greg assisted for the last time. He wasn't well that day, but he had made a commitment to help. He wanted to be there. He made me feel at peace, whenever I was in his presence. That's a gift he gave to me.

Barnaby Thomas

Let no one say that one person cannot change the world. For in your grace and faith you did. Let no one say that one person cannot heal with touch. For everywhere you went, my friend, you did. Instead, let everyone who can speak say truly. He walked among us in the form of my brother. Let me now cry, yet through those tears, let me see that bright future in which we shall laugh together again. Until we meet again love – from Barnaby

Shelley Kesselman

If there was anyone whose memory will forever be a blessing, it's our Greg. He showed how to live well and how to die well. And what a magnificent legacy that is!

Bishop +Robert Hirschfield

Colossians 3: 12-13

We know that Greg was a tailor, and a fine one at that. He also wore the clothes that Paul says we disciples are to wear: compassion, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness. I suspect Greg is now in the heavenly studios, tailoring the saints with the fine haberdashery he wore and gently encouraged us to wear. May he rise in glory!

The Reverend Sandi Albom

There are so many reasons that knowing Greg brings a smile to my face. The instance that rises to the top for me was when he and Hank consented to serve as ushers at my priestly ordination here at Grace Church. Of course, it could not have been anyone else but them. Well, what a vision it was to behold those handsome men, dressed in tuxedos, on that day, Greg's beautiful smile welcoming all to the celebration. Bob and I will treasure our memories of this kind, faithful, generous, and selfless man, and the love we have known in his presence.

I tried not to make it too long. Bob also had a "tie thing" going with Greg. Greg loved ties and Bob was wearing one he liked, and Bob liked his. On the spot, the two of them just took off their ties and traded them. Spontaneous and generous, a friend in very sense of the word!

The Reverend Allan Knight

I am so happy that Greg found a welcome home here in this faith community of

Grace church. He has graced us with his presence - his going from us leaves a gaping hole. He came here (it seems like it was just yesterday) he came here with his "brother" Hank, (inside joke) but ended up as his spouse, a marriage which we were so happy to celebrate in this holy place.

I always enjoyed conversing with Greg. His thoughts could range deeply, and he had the ability to articulate them well.

Speaking with Hank this Sunday past as I stood in the aisle beside his pew, I happened to look down at my choir cassock and observed how close to the floor it hung. I was quickly reminded how, now back in uniform, I was aware that I was tripping on it when stepping up into the choir. I need to take care of that before I land on my face in front of the congregation some Sunday. Greg was my "go to" guy for solving problems like that. I have no brothers, but I came to feel quite brotherly with Greg because he took great joy and satisfaction in working with his hands, he with needle, thread and fabric, just as I do with saw, chisel, and wood. Not many weeks prior to this he had proudly displayed the tattoos on his arm describing in detail the images of his calling, secular and spiritual, his calling to be a tailor, and his calling to be a disciple of Jesus, manifested in part by his service at the altar as subdeacon and chalice, but more so in his everyday striving for justice and peace in the world.

Go in peace, dear brother, on the wings of love and our prayers to the wonders that God has in store for you and for all the faithful.

Ernie Marino

I got to know Greg through our Adult Ed Bible Study. I was continually impressed by his eagerness and ability to research whatever it was that we were exploring -- the Old and New Testaments, Buddhism, the Dead Sea Scrolls, or the lives of the great Christians, to name a few. Greg was always prepared, not only with commentary, but also with probing questions. He was a true seeker. His presence enriched our classes every week.

The Outreach Committee Needs Your Help!

Last year Grace Church raised enough money to provide a \$75 gift card for 156 children in 3 Manchester public schools. As of Saturday, October 30, we had only enough money for 12 gift cards.

You can help by sending a check made out to Grace Church with a notation that it is for the Giving Tree. Please be as generous as you can. Any amount will be appreciated. The deadline for receiving money is November 14.



The parents will receive the cards after Thanksgiving and use them to shop for Christmas gifts for their children.

A tree will be set up in the church library for collecting warm hats, mittens, and scarves. Your donations may be brought to church on any Sunday from November 14 to December 12. They may also be brought in on any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 AM and noon. Call the office first to make sure someone will be there to let you in.

Thank you for your continued generosity,
Nancy-Ann Feren
Outreach Chair

The Southern Convocation

The Southern Convocation reconvened after its annual summer hiatus September 28 on Zoom. Co-Conveners, Greg Baker and Shelley Kesselman, called the meeting to order. Grace was represented by delegates Shelley Kesselman, Ed Doyle, and Julie Alig Scala. Church of the Transfiguration served as virtual host, offering opening and concluding prayers.



Before the business portion of the meeting the convocation took a few moments to remember and give thanks for the life and service of Greg Gagnon, former Convocation delegate, as Shelley Kesselman offered a brief eulogy and prayer.

The Convocation was pleased to welcome Bengé Ambrogi, Diocesan COO and Canon for Mission Resources who helped us prepare for our upcoming Convention the first weekend in November. Mr. Ambrogi reviewed Resolutions 1 and 2 and reviewed the proposed budget, all of which we will be voting on at Convention

Resolution 1 addresses the question of how canons need to be adjusted to meet the needs of our diocese and its constituent congregations as they are now, not how things once were. This would include irregular communities in the diocese which have emerged in recent years which are neither traditional missions nor parishes, including Church of the Woods, Digital Mission, Christ the Way dinner church, Church of the Epiphany, the Franklin mission, and digital Mission. These “out of the box” communities have much to offer, and teach us, and we need canons that accommodate non traditional models. An affirmative vote would affirm these missional communities’ existence and would authorize the constitution and canons com-

mittee to do the inquiry necessary to modify the existing canons as needed to address their distinctive needs.

Resolution 2 would make co-conveners automatic members of Diocesan Council. While this would facilitate the necessary connections between parishes, the convocations and the diocese, it would increase the responsibilities of the co-conveners.

The proposed budget reflects a strong commitment to cultivating leadership in all areas and orders of ministry. The budget is more or less where it was last year with the exception of proposed salary increases. There were none last year, but inflation has been sufficiently steep that a 4.5 % COLA increase and a 1% merit increase have been proposed.

All resolutions and the full detailed budget are available online on the diocesan website in the pre-convention journal. We invite you all to look at it, and contact your delegates with your questions, comments, and concerns.

The next meeting will be October 26 on Zoom, and will primarily be a time for the delegates to discuss the budget and resolutions.

Shelley Kesselman

Stewardship Talk

On Sunday, October 24th at our 9:30 AM service our parish heard a wonderful stewardship message from Julie Alig Scala. Here are her thoughtful words.

Good morning. My name is Julie Alig, and Christopher Messier asked me to give a stewardship talk to you this year. And if you know Chris, you know that you just can't say "no" to him! So here I am.

This year's theme is "Every Perfect Gift." As I was preparing my remarks, I thought about what makes a gift "perfect." Is it the amount you spent on it? Is it the intention behind it? Or is it that it fills a need for the recipient? Maybe a need they didn't even know they had?

At that point I stopped writing and thought, OK Jules, why in the world



would they listen to me talk about stewardship here at Grace? I'm a very new member of Grace, and of the Episcopal Church itself for that matter. I was received into it by Bishop Rob barely two years ago. On top of that, many of you probably don't even know me. I'm not an Episcopalian by birth. I was raised in another faith tradition, I was married in it, I brought up my children in it. But I struggled with that other faith tradition, I struggled a lot over a lot of years, and I realized that it was eroding my faith.

I don't have to tell you all that faith is hard, but my struggles on top of it was making it almost impossible for me to have a relationship with Jesus. Well, I didn't give up on my faith. Somehow, I felt called to come here to Grace and see what this community offered. I still remember that first Sunday morning Ann Hewins coming right up to me and welcoming me when I walked in. That welcoming, that community only continued as I returned week after week.

Here, my faith isn't being eroded, it's being nurtured. Here, my faith is actually growing.

You all have given me the "perfect gift," the gift of my faith, the gift of community, the gifts of Jesus. And for that, I will be eternally grateful.

So, at the end of the day, how can I NOT provide stewardship and support to Grace?

Thank you
Julie Alig



Stewardship

We are so very grateful for our parish Stewardship team which came together this past month to organize our annual parish stewardship mailing. Special thanks to Christine Anderson, Stewardship Chair, and Linda Lassonde who authored this year's letter.

Sunday Worship

We continue to be grateful for our parish community that gathers for worship through the power of three: in person worship, our Sunday Zoom room, and Drive By Eucharist.



Dollar Signs

The title of this piece can have more than one meaning. One could simply be the symbol (\$) that is used when specifying an amount of money. For example, three dollars could be written as \$3. Another interpretation could be related to how it is used. The way one uses their dollars could be a symbol, or sign, of their priorities.

One of my encounters with the “Dollar Sign” occurred several years ago relative to a credit card bill. Nancy-Ann and I use



credit cards frequently; mostly for convenience but sometimes for special offer discounts / rewards. We always pay our credit card bills in full and on time because we don't want to have to pay interest. I happened to notice on one of the bills that the stated minimum payment per month was less than the interest that would be charged each month. I thought that was crazy because someone paying the minimum amount would be allowing their balance owed to increase rather than decrease. Some years after that, a law was passed that required an explanation of how one's minimum payments would affect their total balance owed and interest charged. It seems that the original goal of the credit card companies may have been to increase what was owed, so they would make more dollars from the interest. The priority might have been on earnings rather than people.

An example of symbolism and prioritization can be found in the New Testament (Mark 12: 41-44). Jesus and his disciples watched as people put money into the temple treasury, and Jesus pointed out to his disciples that the wealthy were putting bags of money into the temple treasury, but those large amounts of money, were not a significant portion of their wealth. They had plenty to spare. The poor woman who put in two coins had none to spare. The wealthy were trying to create an impression of generosity, but Jesus pointed out that it was the poor woman who truly exemplified generosity.

These ideas can also be related to politics and government. Some people make a point of saying that the government should spend as little money as possible so taxes can be kept low. Others are saying that more money should be spent, especially if it is used to help people because there will be benefits. One example of this could be the government spending money to help lower or even eliminate college tuition. To many, this could seem like a waste, but it has future advantages. If tuitions are lowered, then more people could go to college and get a higher education. Their higher education would allow them to get higher paying jobs, earn more money, and be able to pay more in taxes, effectively paying back what was invested in their education.

Another issue is homelessness. Some people often view the growing numbers of homeless people as a problem that was created by the homeless, rather than from some other cause(s) that made them homeless in the first place. A city in Colorado decided to provide housing for their homeless. This meant spending more than their usual budget would call for. The interesting side effect was that providing housing for the homeless ended up with reduced costs for policing, for clean-up, and for medical care. The town budget actually benefitted from spending more to provide the housing. Some of the residents (who had been homeless) were also willing to help provide building maintenance for their housing. Others learned from them and developed new skills.

Dollars can send many signs or signals, depending on how they are used.

Dick Feren

Living Psalm 118

One quote from the Bible that has been bubbling up as of late within my subconscious is a line from the Psalms, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Yesterday morning, I set out on a hike to the Dollar Store in the next town over. Once I arrived there it was such a nice day that, after making my purchases, I kept on trekking for a mile or three more.

During that time, I did the following: I counted the bands on a fuzzy-wuzzy caterpillar to see how chilly the winter will be. (Okay, technically it’s called a Woolly Bear caterpillar, but this is my writing so I’ll name it what I want!) I meandered down a wooded bike trail/former railroad that runs parallel to a busy highway. I’ve traveled up and down this highway all of the stages of my life, but I had no idea what lay beyond the meadows and the trees that I had seen whizzing by from the car window. Now I do.

That exploration of discovery alone makes life worth living. I sauntered across broad pastures and unmown lawns of the county nursing home, detouring to briefly chase a pair of golden, yellow, flutterby’s until they and I got bored with that game. Then I paused for a spell by some elderly trees whilst I wistfully looked down the road towards the direction of my lost, childhood home that had been filled with memories of now vanished, dear ones. After sniffing once or twice, I squared my shoulders and started walking back in the other direction. I also explored abandoned pig farms, tried to decipher faded runes of gnomic, roadside markers, picked up long forgotten bits of train coal for my

collection, stared wide-eyed at yawning gullies and faraway hills, and spoke with locals about their gardening prospects. (Quite good so far with this unseasonably warm weather!) I was appalled at the mean-spirited cheese paring displayed at a local paupers’ cemetery where the tombstones had numbers instead



of names and chatted up a local trails volunteer who generously provided me with his knowledge of the local pathways.

As the afternoon grew cloudy and the shadows lingered under the branches, my wanderlust satiated for the moment, I made my way homewards where a soft recliner and a warm cup of cappuccino awaited me. *This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!*

Dannielle Lee Thomas Leonard

GEC Book Group Still Meeting and On Zoom

This past month on Tuesday, October 19th our parish book group met at noon to discuss the book *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. All of us who joined in on this discussion agreed this book was, as Linda Chamberlain put it so perfectly, "not an easy read," both emotionally and in regards to tracking characters and plot. The text moves between the stories of two fathers who live in the Middle East and whose daughters have died because of the infighting between Israelis and Palestinians. Often the book moves back and forth in regards to time frames and experiences, moving between numerous people. Remembering who is who in the various chapters is often challenging. Although not all of us liked the book, we all agreed it was an important and well written novel. Jane Van Zandt observed, "What made this book important to me is that there are people who are going through checkpoints and having their homes bulldozed." The tension between Palestine and Israel is real and clear in this text. The book showcases remarkable "precipice moments" - those times (and we all have them) when our life shifts because of a single moment or tragedy. The book reminded all of us as readers that many people within our world live under incredible stress all of the time.

In November our book group will gather on Zoom on Tuesday, November 16th at 12 noon. Our next book was selected with the help of the Reverend Jane Van Zandt and is titled *The Midnight Library* by the author Matt Haig. Amazon summarizes this novel with the fol-



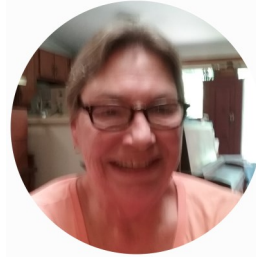
lowing description: When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

Please let our parish office know if you would like a Zoom link to join us for our next virtual book discussion.

Much love,
Marjorie +

Over the Fence

The activity level next door at Grace House has shifted into high gear. The fall semester is in full swing and our City Year folks are supporting teachers and students in and out of the classroom.



The house is at full capacity, hosting two men and four women from all over the country. Rachel Berts is from Belmont, Massachusetts and graduated from Wellesley College. She's working with 4th graders at Bakersville School. Cooper Thompson hails from Westminster, Colorado. Cooper graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder. He's working with 4th graders at Henry Wilson as is Joe Hille. Joe is from Stow, Massachusetts and is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College.

Isabella Atencio comes to us from Irving, California and the University of California, Santa Cruz. She's working with 4th graders at Northwest. Stevie Freeborn is from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She graduated from Florida State University. She works with 6th graders at Parkside Middle School.

Maggi Reedel is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Susquehanna University. She is serving in a 3rd/4th grade classroom at Parker Varney. Maggi often brings her 2 guinea pigs, Frannie and Lola, with her to help teach and support her students. They are very popular at home as well!

Finally, a big shout out and much gratitude to Gary York and Bruce Thomas of the Grace Church Property Committee. Both leaders quickly

addressed some pesky maintenance issues at the house. Thanks, guys!

Ann Hewins
Grace House Manager



(from left to right: Stevie, Marj and Maggi)

Advent/Christmas Choir Invitation

All parishioners are invited to join with Grace Church Choir members to form a seasonal ensemble that will offer anthems and carols during the coming Advent/Christmas season. Rehearsals will be offered on Thursdays throughout Advent from 7:30-8:30 pm, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and a "dress" rehearsal on Tuesday, Dec. 21, for the Lessons and Carols Service, which will be presented on Christmas Eve, at 8:00 pm.

Safety protocols will be observed. For more information, please contact the church office or Mark Cleveland, Choir Director.

Virtual Ataxia Walk n Roll 2021

The following article went out to the parish in an email last month as it missed the Grace Notes deadline. Thank you to everyone who responded and for your generosity. There is still time to check out our donor page, to donate and help us reach our goal. Just click the link below and you will find everything you need to know.

Hello Everyone,

Ken and I continue to support the efforts of the National Ataxia Foundation whose mission is: 'To accelerate the development of treatments and a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia'. Ken's Spinocerebellar Ataxia was diagnosed over 10 years ago. Balance, Speech and Cognitive Changes have occurred over the past years. We continue with home care services and therapies in an effort to slow down progression

and keep Ken at home.

The 2021 Virtual Walk n' Roll is bringing together all the incredible Walk sites across the country for one virtual day of giving and support. If you are able to support NAF's mission at this time and support our efforts by making a donation please go to our page here: <https://igfn.us/vf/NAFLIVE/JillPorter> If you prefer to donate by check please do so by making your check payable to NAF and give it or mail it to Jill.

Thanks for taking a moment to check it out and for caring about us as we continue along our journey. We look forward to your support, whatever that may be.

Jill & Ken Porter

Thanks Be to the Bees

We give thanks for the bees that buzzed in our parish gardens in late summer and early fall and all the beekeepers of our parish family who encourage bees to pollinate our world and sweeten the earth with honey: Michael Duffy and Stephen Cornish and the White family: Meghann, Brian, Clare, and Charlie.

O Almighty and Pre-eternal God: You hold all creation in the palm of your hands; You possess the heavens, the earth and all that is them; You compassionately grant unto all created things that which is beneficial for them. With compunction, we pray to You, O all-good One: As in ancient times You granted the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey, and as you were well-pleased to nourish Your baptizer John in the wilderness with wild honey, so now by Your good pleasure and caring for our sustenance, bless all

bee hives in their apiary, greatly increase the number of bees in them, preserve them by Your grace, and fill us rich with honey. Let none of these beehives which You have fashioned be deprived of bees, but let them always be filled with honey-



combs of honey. And according to Your great benefits and invincible might, let them always remain unharmed and in Your grasp, O Christ. For Yours it is to be merciful and to save us, O Christ our God, and unto You do we send up glory, honor and worship, together with Your Father and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Adapted from the website: <https://rivercottagefarm.net/the-blessing-of-the-bees/>

Thanks for Prayer Shawls and Care Packages

Special thanks this month to parishioners Linda Chamberlain, Judy Daigle, and our rector for their "mad skills" when it comes to knitting prayer shawls and constructing care packages (with prayer shawls included!) for members of our parish family. Several of our younger parishioners have been quarantined and/or had COVID and the prayer shawls/care packages we have sent have really made a difference. Thank you also to Ken Grinnell and Emery Freethey, both of whom served as delivery men for taking gifts from church to homes for those who were ill.



Prayer shawls are tangible symbols of love. They are warm hugs of empathy and support; a private place of escape in which to rest, relax, and renew; something to hold on to when all else seems to be slipping away. Wrapping others in shawls made with prayer and loving thoughts is the gift. Prayer begins in the heart and the creation of a prayer shawl is a spiritual journey of prayer for the shawl maker.



One parishioner wrote, "The children opened their COVID care packages last night and have been playing with all their goodies ever since. They slept with their prayer shawls all night. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!" Although our parish knitting retreat is on hiatus due to COVID, we are grateful for all our fiber artists who continue to knit their hearts and prayers into thoughtful gifts of love.

So Very Grateful

Special thanks to parishioner Bruce Thomas for repairing and painting the fencing between our parish office building and Grace House. We are grateful for all those at our parish who take such good care of our buildings and grounds.



Congratulation On The Birth of New Grandson



Congratulations to parishioners Linda and Timothy Lassonde, who just became grandparents again! Congratulations also to Kaydance, Jude, and Theodore Lassonde who now have a beautiful, brand new baby brother: Lincoln Alexander Lassonde, born on Wednesday, October 9th, 2021.

Engagement Announcement

Congratulations to longtime parishioner Alycia Miner who just became engaged to Jacob Frost. Best wishes and great joy to the happy couple!!



Engagement Announcement

Congratulations to Jim Everett, son of parishioner Terry Everett, who recently became engaged to his girlfriend Jess Lacourse. It was wonderful to visit with Jim at Grace Church when he returned home to New Hampshire with his beloved for a wedding of a friend recently. Best wishes for the happy couple! A wedding date has yet to be set!

Congratulations Amanda O’Keefe!

Congratulations to Amanda O’Keefe who finished her doctorate in August of 2019.

Amanda was supposed to participate in SNHU’s graduation ceremony in May of 2020, but then the pandemic arrived.

Amanda was finally hooded and received her Doctorate of Educational Leadership on October 16th, 2021. Her dissertation topic was “Gender equity prioritization by and gender attitudes of professors in teacher preparation programs”



Remembering Sara Everett



On October 10th following our regular Sunday worship a few of Sara Everett's family and friends gathered together to remember her death with a new gravestone and sunflowers in our memorial garden. We continue to give thanks for Sara's life and the joy she gave to her parents, brother, and all those who treasured her.



Girls Inc. Raffle to Support An Amazing Manchester Organization

The pandemic has altered our day-to-day lives in many ways. One of the few positive impacts is that people are enjoying being outside and exploring nature more than ever. That's why Girls Inc. decided to shift to a Strong, Smart, and Bold Camper Raffle this year. Not only is it super cute, it's super functional and light-weight enough to pull behind most any vehicle. For an overnight or more, it can be customized to suit your taste and is sure to be a fun way to explore. Of course, there is still a \$20,000 cash option. Funds raised will go towards after-school programming and outreach in schools around the state so Girls Inc. can reach as many girls as possible. Note: tickets are on sale now but only through November 19th.

The Grand Prize is the HC1 Travel-Trailer from Happier Camper (or a \$20,000 cash prize), along with the Second Prize of a brand new snow blower. The latest Series 6 Apple Watch is our Third Prize.

Tickets are \$100 each and there will only be 1,000 tickets sold. Winners will be drawn on Monday, November 22 at noon at the Girls Inc. administrative office in Manchester and will be broadcast live on Facebook. Ticket purchases to be made online or if you prefer, you can call (603) 882-6256 to purchase.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following November birthday celebrants!

1 Mark Ctitz	15 Allan Knight
3 Gail Schuman	17 Howard Keegan
4 Ken Rhodes	21 Shirley Magnuson
7 Matthew Serge	25 Colinette Campbell
10 Brian White	28 Rick Krikorian
14 Amy Brumfield	30 Darby Thomas

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 – or if we have it wrong, please let us know that also.

Vestry Meeting - September 15th, 2021, 7 PM

Attendees: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Ken Kjellander, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, David Roy, Gail Schuman, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Meghann White, Gary York (guest presenter)

Excused Absences: Hank Gagnon, Nancy Johnson, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner

This meeting was conducted via Zoom and was opened by Reverend Marjorie at 7:02 with a prayer.

VOTE: A motion to instate Meghann White as clerk pro tem was made by Gail Schuman, was seconded by Teddi McIntosh, and was carried.

We continued with the reading of the Norms. Gary York presented a proposal for an enclosure for the archways in the courtyard of the church as a safety precaution to prevent vagrants from creating unsafe conditions on campus. The point was made that there have been numerous safety concerns with parishioners and staff over the past years encountering people in the courtyard area that pose significant risk to their safety and well-being.

In June, Gary worked with Empire Sheet Metal to design a fencing design and there was consensus at the last Property Meeting to move forward with this design and present it to Vestry. The cost of the enclosure would be approximately \$30,000, which would be covered by capital expense. There is currently \$66,502 in the capital fund that could pay for this expense.

We currently pay roughly \$14,000 per year for security to guard the premises. The plan is for Reverend Marjorie and Gary York to present the information to the congregation on Sunday, September 19th.

VOTE: A motion to move forward with the enclosure project was made by Valerie Anderson and seconded by Teddi McIntosh. The motion carried.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Gail Schuman and seconded by Carol Cote, and the motion carried. The reports included were Vestry Minutes (Aug. '21), Rector's Report (Aug/Sept '21), Planning and Finance Minutes (Sept 8, 2021), Property Committee Minutes (Sept. 1, 2021), GEC Music Department Minutes (Aug 19, 26, Sept. 2, 2021)

Reviewed Finance: Operating P&L - Pledge receipts in August were 1/3 of budget. Grace House had 5 renters total as of August and now as of September 6 renters. Citizens Bank confirmed we received loan forgiveness for PPP loan. We got a note receivable for the community loan fund and Gail A sent paperwork back to renew it. Gail A updated us on the Capital campaign progress, how by the end of August we had received \$99,900.

VOTE: A motion was made to accept the financials by Teddi McIntosh and was seconded by Christopher Messier. It carried.

We discussed the recent audit. There were no surprises in terms of the cost of the audit. A draft report was sent on September 24th (see notes from Planning and Finance).

New Business Discussed: We discussed the policy for requiring multiple bids for property issues and maintenance and that 3 bids are required for anything over \$5,000. Gail A is developing a job description for a data entry person.

A Stewardship planning meeting is to be held September 19th via Zoom directly after Sunday worship. A preliminary budget review for the 2022 budget year will occur at the October 2021 Vestry meeting.

Ongoing Business: The steeple project is being completed; the kitchen is ongoing. We need to identify candidates for both a new Property Committee chair and Parish Treasurer.

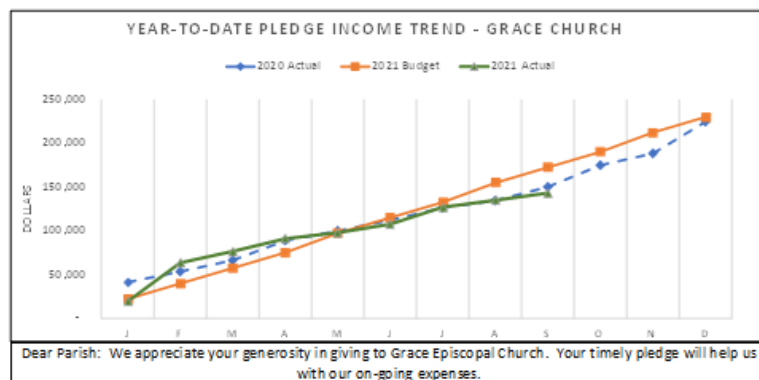
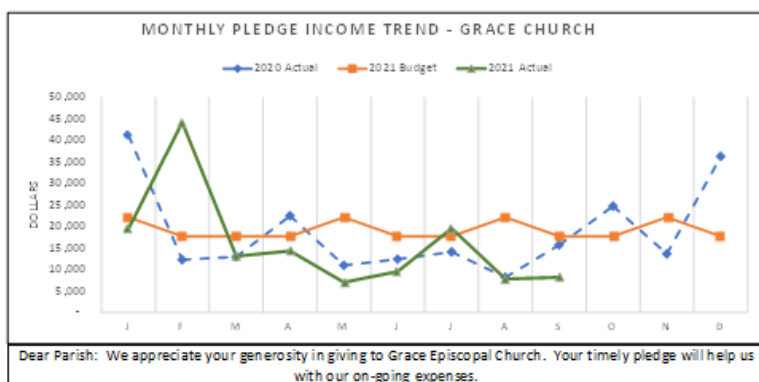
The Vestry discussed time parameters for Thursday night choir rehearsals. It was recommended by Christopher M to keep rehearsal to 1 hour.

VOTE: A motion to keep choir rehearsal to 1 hour due to Covid precautions was made by Valerie Anderson, seconded by Teddi McIntosh, and was carried.

The meeting closed at 9:04.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on October 20, 2021 at 7 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meghann White



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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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Next Newsletter Deadline

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