



Grace Notes February 2022

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



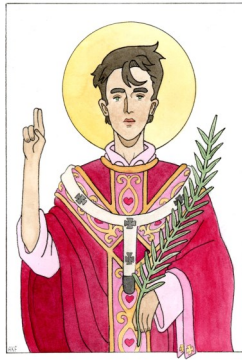


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Rector's Reflection

Health is the greatest of God's gifts, but we take it for granted. It hangs on a thread as fine as a spider's web. And the smallest thing can make it snap, leaving the strongest of us helpless in an instant. And in that instant, hope is our protector and love, our panacea.



Call the Midwife Season 1, Episode 5

Because I was a book nerd, a singer, an academic, and always the last kid in gym class picked for a dodgeball game (or any team sport for that matter) I managed to avoid having any broken bones until the age of 51. Of course, that "no bones ever broken" record changed two days before Thanksgiving. Early in the morning, I went walking with our pug on the same footpaths I always trod. Leaves underfoot were frozen and before I knew it I slipped, tumbled, and heard the bone in my right ankle crack in the still silence of the morning air.

The minute it happened I prayed, "Oh dear God, how am I going to get through this? I am alone. No family nearby. No spouse available to help." Half crawling, half limping back to our family home (which, ugh, has 13 steps up to the front door) I said to myself, "One moment at a time. I will with God's help."

Within minutes after I called both our parish administrator and a nearby Grace Church parishioner, rides to and from the hospital to have my foot looked at and x-rayed had been secured. Within twenty-four hours, two other parishioners had organized both "Share a Ride" and "Meal Train" for our family, and the Reverends Allan Knight and Jane Van Zandt had volunteered to run church for a few weeks. Finally, for a solid two weeks BOTH my teenagers managed to walk to their bus stops and make their morning buses on time without missing them. Friends, this fact is a miracle in and of itself and proved to me there is a God!

I cannot thank all of you, too many to name, who dropped off homemade meals, mailed us food cards and get well soon notes, sent flowers, dropped off groceries and gifts, and drove me around town to run errands. So many of you shared your own stories (and knee scooter and crutches!) of broken ankles in times past.

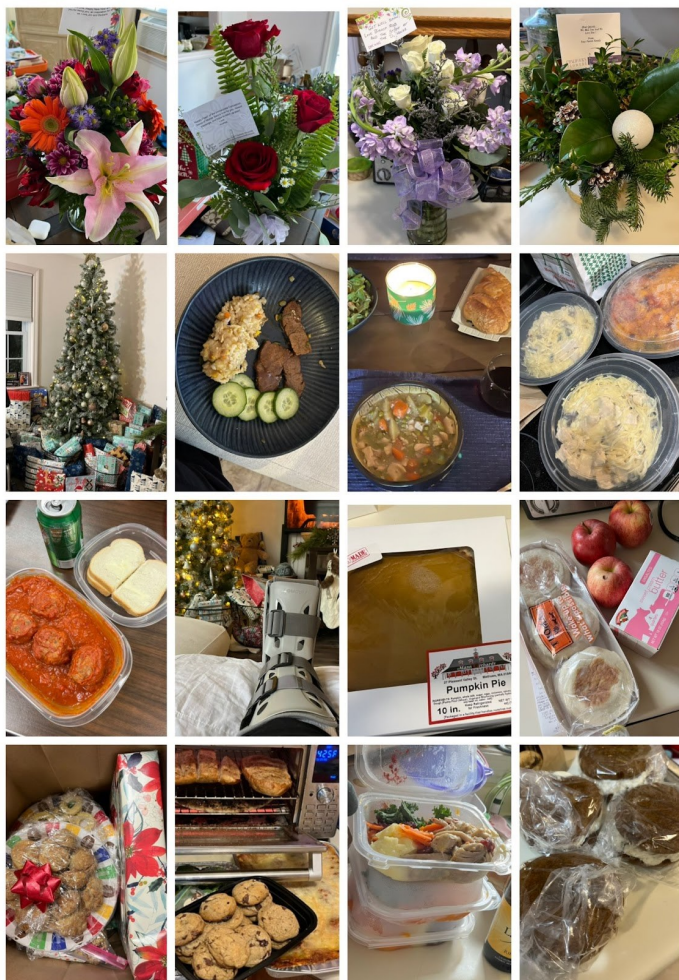
In the musical *Into the Woods* the character of Cinderella sings:
 "Mother cannot guide you. Now you're on your own. Only me beside
 you. Still, you're not alone. No one is alone. Truly. No one is
 alone."

We often join a church to worship. To say "I do" before our Creator,
 family, and friends. To baptize our children. To sing. To pray. To
 bury our loved ones, when the time comes for them to cross over into
 God's arms. We come to church to find quiet time with our Lord. Re-
 flect on how we can love and serve others and God on a higher, bet-
 ter level. But we also join a church family so we can remember, time

and time again,
 that we are not
 alone. As hu-
 man beings and
 Jesus followers,
 we all experi-
 ence broken
 ankles, broken
 relationships,
 hard times,
 losses of all
 kinds. Thanks
 be to God we
 do not walk this
 path alone. As
 retired bishop
 of New Hamp-
 shire Gene
 Robinson often
 said, "God did
 not create us to
 go rogue."

Thank you,
 Grace Church
 family, for re-
 minding me and
 my children that
 we are not
 alone.

Blessings and
 love,
 Marjorie +





Advent Blessings

Special thanks to the Reverend Allan Knight and the Reverend Jane Van Zandt who were enfleshed blessings to our parish this past Advent. Both preached, presided, and assisted on our altar while our rector was on the mend with a broken ankle.



Miracles in Our Midst

As I was preparing my sermon for the Sunday in which we visited the wedding in Cana, where Jesus changed water into wine, I thought about the concept of “miracle”.

A miracle is generally thought to be an event that is contrary to the laws of nature. Or, as in the case of the wedding, it is an unusual or wonderful event that is believed to be caused by the power of God.

For me, life itself is a miracle. If you’ve ever seen a baby, or a kitten, or any living thing being born, it is a most amazing thing. And, over time, the completely helpless, totally dependent, being begins to grow into a functional being. That, too, is miraculous.

Everything that has been invented is a miracle of sorts. God gave someone intelligence, patience, and skill to make an idea come to fruition.

When I drive my car from Chester to another town, I am sometimes filled with wonder: to think that I am sitting in a box of metal and plastic parts of various shapes and sizes, on four rubber tires, and I go easily, mile after mile, to my destination, with little effort on my part.

Years ago, I came across a book entitled *How Things Work*. But that didn't explain everything. I still saw God's hand in things I read about.

When I was a small child, I asked my father "Why?" in relation to pretty much everything I encountered. My Dad did his best to explain how, or what, or why, but at some point, the buck always stopped with God.

There are miracles everywhere, if we take the time to notice!

Jane W Van Zandt+

Dave Kjellander Called To Assist in Milford



To my much beloved Grace Church family,

It is with very mixed feelings I let you all know that recently I've been asked to fill in as organist/choir director at the Episcopal Church of our Savior in Milford, New Hampshire. After prayerful consideration, I've accepted this interim position which runs through this coming Easter.

This sister church is losing not only their current organist, but their rector is retiring a week later. I feel I can not only offer much musically, but help smooth this very transitory period in the life of the Milford congregation.

Sincerely,
David Kjellander

Epiphany Prayer by the Rev. Leslie Scoopmire

Blessed Savior, we come to you in wonder, and lay our hearts before You: fill them with wisdom and courage that we may love You boldly and show forth your glory in our lives.

May we persevere in reflecting your light, Lord Jesus, in all we do and say, by embodying compassion and integrity, resisting the forces of evil and injustice, and serving each other and You in humility and hope.

May both our words and our silences be ever aligned with building true justice and peace, O Holy One.

May we ever be mindful as the Body of Christ in the world, bearing your name as a sign of our devotion to your gospel, Blessed Jesus, that we stand with the lost and forgotten as You did, and never acquiesce to fear, exploitation, or hatred.

May we remember that we are the children of your Light, O God, and called to holiness and love.

May we be forces for healing and reconciliation, and embrace each other in charity and empathy in the name of Our Shepherd and King.

Lord, we ask for your blessing and your grace, and ask your peace and light to rest upon those whose needs we lift before You. Amen.



Congratulations Shelley

Special thanks and blessings to Shelley Kesselman who preached for the first time at our parish on Sunday, January 23rd, 2022.

Special thanks to Kate Murphy, Barnaby and Moe Thomas, Christopher Messier, and The Reverend Allan Knight, who along with our Rector,



met with Shelley directly following the service and gave support and feedback to Shelley about her wonderful first sermon.



News From the Episcopal Church of NH

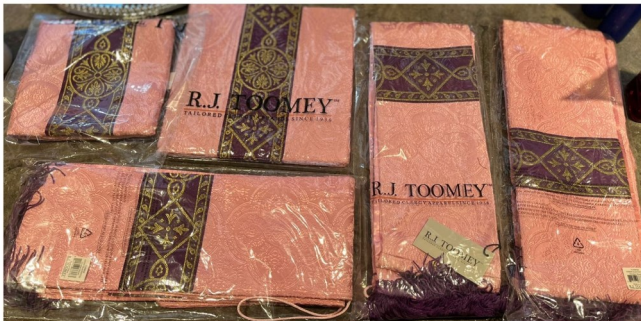
From Deep Roots, New Growth Initiative Begun in the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire:

"We fervently believe that the Church is emerging from a period of pruning and is poised to grow, flower, and thrive in ways we do not yet completely understand. Please join as we enter a period of discernment for diocesan-wide initiatives." - Bishop +Robert Hirschfeld

After many years of consideration, Bishop +Rob and leaders of the Diocese have decided to explore the readiness of Episcopalians in New Hampshire to support a capital campaign to raise funds for the vitality of the church. We will be sharing updates with our parish and all the other Episcopal churches in New Hampshire so we can all follow the progress. Soon there will be a dedicated area on the diocesan website devoted to this effort. We will also have the opportunity to participate in diocesan wide discussions about our communal future. In the meantime, please review the videos from Bishop +Rob and those who have already benefited from the proposed finding areas at the following weblink: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-vtdVRDJWZcN11ckp-tjELIQ1gHhYtW>

Rose Vestments Gifted To Our Parish

Thanks to the generosity of parishioner Gail Schuman, our parish now has a set of Rose vestments. Rose vestments are only worn twice in the liturgical year, during the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Rose is worn on these days to show the joy and love found in Christ.



Gail's generous gifts will be blessed in the context of our liturgy during the Third Sunday of Lent, 2022.

Pictured: Gail Schuman, Shelley Kesselman, Valerie Anderson and her dog Han-Han, our rector, Christopher Messier



Grace Church Choir Prays Through Song

The winter solstice is observed as Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, set aside to recognize the struggles of those who face homelessness. It is also a day to honor those who have passed away over the last year as a result of their lack of housing. 2021 marks the 5th year that the Catholic Medical Center has organized a vigil service where the names of those lost in Manchester, New Hampshire are read. At this service we remember our homeless neighbors with hymns and a moment of reflection, as well as a luminary for each person remembered.

This year, the vigil expanded to include Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, Families In Transition, the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, along with the gift of music from our Grace Church Choir. This remembrance/celebration service took place on December 21st at 6 PM in Veteran's Park in Manchester. It was one of several held across New Hampshire that day. Special thanks to Lauren Cline for helping to organize this service and to all the members of our choir, as well as our parish musicians, Mark Cleveland and Ken Grinnell, for attending the event.



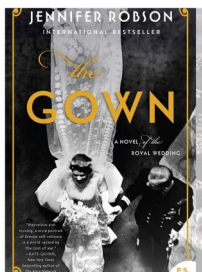
Grace Church Book Group Continues On Zoom

A small, but savvy band of readers (five total) met together on Zoom on Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 to discuss the remarkable book *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand, also known for her book, *Seabiscuit*. Marjorie's sister, Amy, a librarian, has *Unbroken* on her top ten favorite books to read and discuss in the context of a book group. The book tells the life story of Louis Silvie Zamperini, known as "Louie," a man who gained national attention for competing as a runner in the 1936 Berlin Olympics at a fairly young age. Louise is later reported to be dead after a military plane crash in the Pacific Ocean during World War

II. He surprises the world by returning home alive after the war. Louie was a man with incredible resilience as he miraculously survived many trials, including a long sea journey on a raft and then years of cruel treatment as a Japanese POW. There was a beautiful thread of trust and faith in God throughout the entire book.

As usual, Jane Van Zandt crafted a wonderful list of questions and statements to help create a lively discussion. Some she included were: In one 18 month period, 70% of men listed as "killed in action" were killed as the result of operational aircraft accidents, not combat. What made POW's rage turn to forgiveness for some? How did we come to be allied with Japan after the war?

Our next book will be a stark contrast to the incredible story we just read about World War II. Our February book group choice is titled *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson. This book is an enthralling historical novel about one of the most famous wedding dresses of the twentieth century - Queen Elizabeth's wedding gown - and the fascinating women who made it.



Our next book group Zoom met up will take place on Tuesday, February 15th at 12 noon. All are welcome!

Much love,
Marjorie +

Team Work

If someone uses the word "team," the listener often assumes the reference is to a large group of sports players. If instead the comment is about "team work," then the assumption often shifts to a group of individuals that have a goal or purpose. They could be engineers developing a new mechanical or electrical device, or a group of entrepreneurs trying to develop a new business, or a group of workers in a company working on a specific project. The term "team work" also implies a higher level of cooperation and greater chance of success than the efforts of a single individual. These thoughts made me wonder if teamwork could be a factor in long-term marriages. I think it can, especially in more modern times where society doesn't require people to stay married no matter what. Team work can also help



make a long-term marriage happy as well as stable.

Nancy-Ann and I were talking the other day and decided that one reason we have been together happily for so long is that we basically work as a team. We usually each do different things, and often approach them differently, but each of us has a say in what should be done and when. Nancy-Ann tends to do better at planning, scheduling, and organizing, while I tend to do better at making and fixing things. If she is planning a trip, I will be asked to offer comments or suggestions about where to go and what to see. If I am making a cabinet or refinishing a room, I will ask for suggestions about size, color, or location.

Another facet to this idea of teamwork involves games and puzzles. For example, if we are starting a jigsaw puzzle, one of us will look for all the edge pieces, and the other will look for pieces that have a particular color or pattern. If one of us finds pieces that would be helpful to the other, we pass them over. The puzzle progresses quickly, and we are both pleased with the outcome. If we are doing a crossword, each of us will know and contribute different words. The words provided by one will add clues to the puzzle and make it easier for the other to find more words. Finishing the crossword quickly makes us both happy.

The above thoughts also add another perspective to a comment made by a guide on a tour many years ago. I think we were visiting India when the guide stated that 20% of love marriages lasted, but 80% of arranged marriages were long-term. The society was heavily male-dominated, and ending an arranged marriage was pretty much forbidden. Thinking back on those comments, I wondered how happy the couple was in the arranged marriage because the duration of the marriage depended more on societal norms than on mutual happiness. Did they see and appreciate each other as members of a team?

Nancy-Ann and I like working as a team. We both celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy our life together.

Dick Feren

Helping Our Newest Afghan Neighbors

Our parish has been notified of another opportunity for helping Afghan refugees.

The Brookside Church Thrift Shop is going to be bringing in refugee families who have resettled in New Hampshire for a day of dignity shop-

ping where they can pick out a few outfits, a coat, and boots for each family member. However, they are running short on winter coats, boots, and socks. The shopping event will be over several weeks, so they will rotate donations through as they arrive. The following items are very much needed. They can be brand new or gently used.

Clothing:

- Winter Coats (Men's, Women's, and Kids')
- Boots (Men's, Women's, and Kids')
- Socks (Men's, Women's, and Kids')
- Leggings
- Tunic type tops
- Mens Pants (Sizes 28-32 waist)
- Gloves

Household:

- Mini-prep food processor
- Blender/Juicer
- Mortar/Pestle
- Small Lamps
- Tupperware type containers all sizes
- Small Tool Kit (screw drivers, hammer, small nails, command strips/hooks)
- AA batteries
- Iron

Hygiene:

- Pads (women cycle needs)
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- First Aid Kits



The shop is open Wednesday through Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM and donations can be dropped off then. There is a bench at the base of the handicap ramp if people have donations after hours. Please label your donations clearly for "Afghan Refugees."

Many thanks,
Nancy-Ann Feren
Parish Outreach Chair



If you don't have any extra coats, warm woolies, or boots to donate, local thrift stores are a great place to find them. Special thanks to Fiona Stagnaro who helped our rector shop for appropriate clothing for Afghan neighbors. Kudos also to Hilltop Consignment in Concord who donated money and free items to our cause!

Drop Your Drawers (Off) Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has given to the "Drop Your Drawers (Off)" campaign for Cafe 1269. Your generosity in helping our less fortunate neighbors has made life a bit better for many folks. The need for fresh, clean underwear and socks continues at 1269. The showers are open 5 days a week for 2.5 hours (1 shower for women and 2 for men). The folks taking advantage of this service REALLY appreciate being able to have clean underwear. Please continue to keep this need in mind - women and men sizes small and medium are the most needed. For questions please contact the church office.

Thank you,
Susan Tonnar, Susan Bochinski and Chris Stevens

Thanks For The Support!

I recently returned after five days in the hospital and ten weeks in a rehab facility. Quite an experience for one who had never even stayed overnight in a hospital! We aren't sure what was going on physically -- it seemed many of my systems were not functioning well. I couldn't walk, stand, or manage daily skills. And my spirits were as low as I've ever been.

But many good people showed their support with lots of cards, flowers, visits, and calls to Ann, who was feeling the strain too. I am grateful for the caring and encouraging wishes that kept coming. And I found real skill and personal attention from the rehab staff and health professionals at Salem Haven. Together these wonderful people brought me to a place of hope and courage to believe that I could recover my strength and positive spirit again.

You all were part of my healing and you motivate me to continue my progress. And just after returning home, we were blessed with a grant

that paid for a ramp/bridge (we call it "the bridge to everywhere") and built by a crew from Habitat for Humanity, Portsmouth. All we had to do was provide lunch!

We are overwhelmed with appreciation and take time to thank God on a daily basis.

Blessings to all!
Anne Harvey and Ann Hewins

Getting Hacked

The word "hack" sounds like the noise someone makes when they have something stuck in their throat and are trying to clear it out. It is not pleasant. If someone has an account "hacked," that is not pleasant either. I have noticed through postings on Facebook that a fairly significant number of people have had some of their accounts hacked. The problem is often a password that is too short. Here is an approximate calculation and explanation of how long it takes for a hacking program to figure out passwords of different lengths.



There are 80 possible items that can be used in a password. Here is where they come from. If you start with 26 letters, upper and lower case, that makes 52 items. If you add 10 numbers, you have 62 possible. Now put in the other items (such as &, %, +, \$, etc) and you get 18 more, for a grand total of 80 symbols.

If a password is one symbol long, it could take an electronic device approximately 1 micro-second to figure it out. If the password is 2 symbols, it would take about 80 micro-seconds. Now let's look at how this plays out for more symbols.

for 3 symbols, it needs approx 6400 microseconds, or 6.4 milliseconds

for 4 symbols, it needs about 500 milliseconds, or about 0.5 sec

for 5 symbols, it needs about 40 sec

for 6 symbols, it needs about 3200 sec, or almost an hour

for 7 symbols, it needs about 70 hours, or almost 3 days.

for 8 symbols, it needs about 240 days or almost 8 months.

for 9 symbols, it needs about 640 months, which is about 50 years.

for 10 symbols, it needs about 400 years

The numbers are approximate, but that is roughly how it works. (NOTE: A group I am involved with has a password that has over 20 symbols. How long do you think it would take to figure out that one?) Another aspect related to security is having a variety of symbols. Hackers can sometimes start by assuming the password has only one or two symbols repeated several times. That kind of password can be figured out very quickly.

Now here are some other security considerations. Occasionally people will get an email from some person or place that they are not sure about. There are a couple of things that you can do to confirm whether it is legitimate or not. One thing that you can do is to put the cursor symbol over the name of the originator, and then wait for a few seconds. Suppose the name is "Facebook." Putting the cursor symbol on the name "Facebook" and then waiting a few seconds will show just below it the address of friendupdates@facebookmail.com. Another way to explore for legitimacy is to select or highlight the email without opening it and then click "Forward." When an email is in Forward mode, all links in it are de-activated. You can read the details of the email, but don't have to worry about mistakenly clicking a bad link because none are active.

If your security concern involves an incoming phone call, don't say the word "yes." Sometimes a call comes in, and it sounds like it might be legitimate, but you're not sure. When the caller starts the conversation, they will often ask a question such as "Hello. Am I speaking with — (your name)?" They could also be recording the conversation. If you answer "Yes" they could have recorded your voice, and then paste the recorded "Yes" into a verbal contract request that you don't even know exists. The best response to their question is something like "Why are you calling?"

If there is a way to cheat you, someone out there is looking for it. Be careful.

Letter from Jewett Street School

Dear Member of the Grace Episcopal Church,

We here at Jewett Street School are writing to wish you a Happy New Year and to let you know how grateful we are for your generous donation of gift cards for our families this Christmas. The families were greatly appreciative for your kindness and help this Holi-

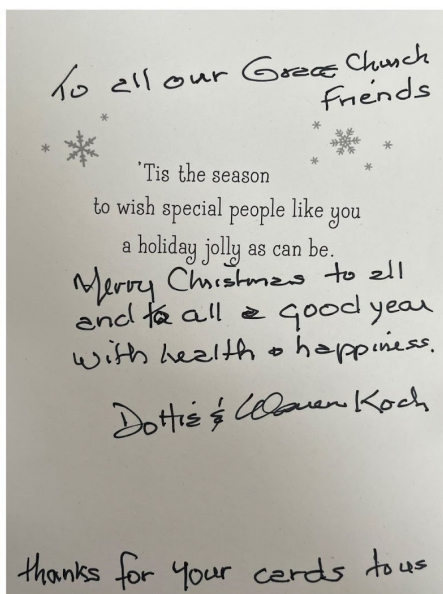
day season. In very challenging times you have shown our families the spirit of giving. So from all of us here at Jewett, we say thank you for making Christmas brighter for some of our families most in need. Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and happy 2022!

With gratitude
Stacey Evans, School Social Worker

A Christmas Thank You

Thanks to all our parishioners who sent their love through the mail to our homebound parishioners. Special thanks also to Nancy-Ann Ferer, chair of our Parish outreach team, who spearheaded this Christmas cheer effort.

If you are willing to send occasional notes to our homebound parishioners through the mail, please contact our parish office for an updated mailing address list.



Wintry Weather on December 19, 2021

A winter storm in New Hampshire on the weekend of the fourth Sunday of Advent encouraged our parish leaders to decide to keep everyone off the roads and our worship service that day entirely on Zoom. Thank you to the Reverend Jane Van Zandt for preaching that day, our warden Amy Brumfield's continued supervision and

wisdom regarding Zoom worship, and warden Christopher Messier's wonderful photography.

New Acolyte

We are thrilled to announce parishioner Charlie White has joined our Acolyte team! Charlie often serves with his sister Clare and father Brian. Special thanks to Andrew Freshour for mentoring and training Charlie!



Sunday, January 16th, 2022

On Sunday, January 16th, 2022 we celebrated the power of three, twice.

At the request of three parish families, we remembered significant anniversary moments by lighting candles at the start of our worship service. We celebrated Dolores "Dee" York, mother of Gary York, who died 8 years ago on January 9, 2014. We celebrated Ruth Spelas, mother of Joni Spelas, who died 15 years ago on January 15, 2007. We celebrated Sarah Teresa Everett, who died in October of 2016. Sarah would have celebrated her 29th birthday on January 15, 2022.

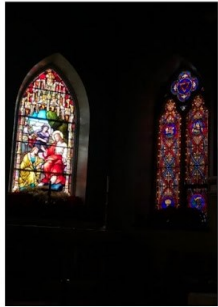


We also celebrated and sang "Happy Birthday" at the end of worship to three beloved members of our parish community: Jim Lee, Barnaby Thomas, and Kaydance Lassonde.

Christmas Eve Worship

We are grateful for all those who prepared, served, and worshipped with us for our Christmas Eve services, both in person and virtually. Special thanks to our Parish Wardens, Parish Administrators, Sexton, Altar Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Clergy-In-Residence, Acolytes, Organist, Choirmaster, Choir Members, and Ushers.





Congratulations to Zachary Stagnaro

Congratulations to Zachary Stagnaro who recently played the role of the cake eating Bruce Bogtrotter at the Palace Theatre in the January 2022 production of *Matilda Jr.* Zach was in a total of three in-person performances, two for the general public and one for local schools.



Special thanks to the following parishioners who attended the show: the Reverends Jane and Allan Knight, Moe and Barnaby Thomas, Davan and Kelley Muir, and Joni Spelas.

An Amazing Accomplishment

Congratulations to parishioner Melissa Roy who just earned her 5th patch for hiking in and through the mountains of New Hampshire. Melissa has summited over 125 different New Hampshire peaks (and done many of them more than once) as well as many miles of trails. Melissa notes, “I am fortunate to live in this beautiful state! Hike



on! LOVING RETIREMENT!!”

Grateful for Melissa’s reminder to enjoy the journeys as well as the accomplishments of making it to the mountaintop!

Congratulations to the Johnson Family

Congratulations to former parishioner Captain Kristina Johnson, who just accepted command of the 168th Security Forces Squadron from Col. Edward F. Borneo, 168th Mission Support Group commander, during a change of com-



mand ceremony on Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, December 5, 2021. Johnson will be in charge of security forces personnel, protecting mission assets, resources, and people. Kristina, her wife, AutumnRose, and their son, Lincoln, relocated from their previous military posting in Okinawa Japan. Our rector officiated at the couple’s wedding on New Year’s Eve in 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sergeant Julie Avey)

Congratulations Sarah and Zac Stockton



Blessings, love, and congratulations to Sarah and Zac Stockton who are now first time proud parents. Sarah, who grew up in our parish, is the daughter of newly minted grandparents Doug and Linda Chamberlain.

George Ulysses Stockton arrived at 1:17 AM on January 3, 2022 weighing in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces, 20 inches long.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following February birthdays celebrants!

2	Elyse Goyette	14	Ed Doyle
	Lillian Goyette	16	Cheryl Walker
8	Maria Douglas	17	Lucy Rhodes
9	Rachel Otto	21	Karen Taylor Kimball
12	Christine Anderson	25	Rohan Cline
	David Charlesworth	27	Theodore Lassonde

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.

Other Milestones:

Baptism: Camden Paul Cwalinski - December 12, 2021

Congratulations To:

The following slate of officers who were elected at the annual meeting held on Sunday January 30, 2022

Vestry (3 year term): Carol Cote, Teddi McIntosh and Meghann White
Delegates to Southern Convocation/Diocesan Convention (2-year term): Ed Doyle and Roger Bleau

Alternate to Southern Convocation/Convention (2 year term): Moe and Barnaby Thomas.

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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

Excused Absences: Ken Kjellander

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 and a discussion of an *Atlantic Monthly* article about the difficulties of finding the middle way in these times.

EMAIL VOTE: To approve the replacement of the water heater that serves the kitchen and Sacristy with a 50-gallon heater with a cost of \$2000-\$2500.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Carol, seconded by Valerie, and was carried. The reports included are Vestry Meeting (Oct-2021), Rector's Report (Oct/Nov 2021), Property Report (Nov-2021), Planning and Finance (Nov-2021), and Endowment Committee Report (Nov-2021).

Gail A. presented the October financials noting that the pledge receipts rebounded a bit but are still unfavorable YTD. The monetary goal of the Capital fund drive has been met. The steeple project is complete and the \$133K was capitalized; the remaining \$67.9K remaining in the Capital fund is to be used for the Kitchen renovation. Any further donations for capital improvement can be made to "Property Capital Fund".

VOTE: A motion was made by Gail S., seconded by Meghann to accept the October Financial Report. The motion carried.

The Mitten Tree collected \$9300 (gift cards were bought to be distributed). Today additional money was donated to the Mitten Tree leaving it \$250 short of the \$10,000 goal.

VOTE: A motion to transfer \$250 from the Stew Richmond Memorial

Fund to the Mitten Tree was made by Valerie and seconded by Teddie which carried.

Gail reported that she had gone over the proposed budget for 2022 (which shows a deficit of \$32,000) with the Property Committee. They found areas where they could reduce the expected expenses by \$10,000. We need to balance the budget by decreasing expenses and/or increasing income. Gail pointed out the following things to consider:

- Deduction - \$6300 for Nursery (just for next year since it seems unlikely that we will be able to open it) – the Vestry is in favor of this.
- Deduction - \$5700 reducing the security service to 2x from 3x after the gates are installed - the Vestry is in favor of this.
- Increase - unknown amount for bookkeeper
- Increase - unknown if there are increases in salaries

Meghann suggested that we need to be transparent with our parishioners and come together and find ways to raise more income – craft fair, raffle, other fund raisers.

David reported that we have \$135,000 in pledges thus far for 2022; he feels that it is tracking normal. This year the final pledge amount was \$176,00.

Rev, Marjorie reported that the Nomination Committee is working on filling out all the open positions.

The Property Committee's main concern is cleanliness – cleaning up after the homeless. Our current plow company will not be able to service us this winter. The Committee and staff are working hard trying to find a person/company that could do the job.

The staffing of the financial office is being researched and contacts are being made but nothing final to report.

The Safe Church parameters are being reviewed.

Rev. Marjorie met with the Music Team to plan out the Christmas services as follows:

- 12/24 @ 4 o'clock – Family service – full eucharist with sermon. (in person and Zoom)

- 12/24 @ 8 o'clock – Lessons and Carols – (in person and Zoom)
- 12/25 @9:30 – staff only in church- morning prayer (Zoom only)
- 12/26 @9:30 – regular Sunday service (in person and Zoom)

Rev. Marjorie left the meeting at 8:50 PM. The Vestry continued the meeting to discuss salary increases.

VOTE: Christopher made a motion to have all salaried employees and contractors receive a 4% increase in 2022. This motion was seconded by Hank and approved by the Vestry.

The meeting was concluded at 9:09 PM

The next Vestry meeting December 15th.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

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

Excused Absences: Chris Turner

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 Barnaby, seconded by Valerie, and was carried. The reports included are Vestry Meeting (Nov-2021), Rector's Report (Nov/Dec 2021), Property Report (Dec-2021), Planning and Finance (Dec-2021), and Music Department Report (Nov-2021).

Gail A. presented the November financials noting that the pledge receipts are (\$1.2K) unfavorable to budget and (\$31.6K) unfavorable YTD or (14.9%) from budget. Total Expenses are favorable to budget \$5.2K, primarily due to Church Maintenance and Supplies, with a favorable variation of \$3.5K. The Mitten Tree has raised nearly \$10.2K; \$9300 in gift cards has been distributed.

VOTE: A motion was made by Gail S., seconded by Carol to accept the November Financial Report. The motion carried.

VOTE: A motion to transfer \$650 from the Mitten Tree to Outreach refugee program (IINE) was made by Hank and seconded by Teddi which carried.

VOTE: A motion to transfer \$1900 from the refugee fund to Outreach refugee program (IINE) was made by Gail S. and seconded by Ken which carried.

Gail reported that she had applied the adjustments that we specified at the last Vestry meeting and added the following adjustment:

- \$1250 added for snow removal contract
- \$2268 deduction for security and building fees that we no longer use

This brings the budget deficit to \$26,122. We discussed where we could find anything else to cut from the budget. The budget will be finalized at the next Vestry meeting. Rev. Marjorie said that sadly the only place she could see an \$11K deduction was to eliminate the security service; a discussion followed.

VOTE: Christopher made a motion to eliminate the security service. It was seconded by Nancy and the motion carried..

Meghann will head a Fund-Raising Committee; Valerie and Rev. Marjorie volunteered to be part of the committee. They will be needing volunteers for this committee to be successful.

David reported that we have \$144,000 in pledges with 53 units thus far for 2022

Rev, Marjorie reported that the Nomination Committee is continuing to work on filling out all the open positions. Gail reported that she continues to look for professional bookkeeper (both remote and in person).

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30th. There will be only a Zoom service on that day with the meeting following the service. Information of the Annual Meeting date and venue will be posted and emailed to parishioners.

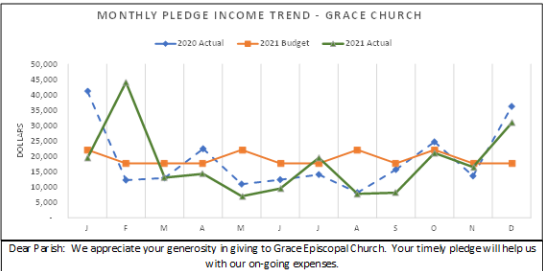
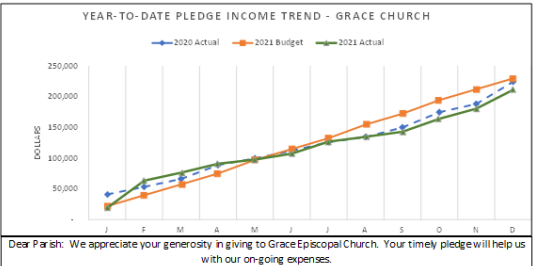
VOTE: A motion was made by Amy and seconded by Carol to approve the Rector’s Housing Allowance. The motion carried.

Drive by Eucharist will be held every other Sunday beginning in January 2022.

The meeting was concluded at 8:35 PM

The next Vestry meeting January 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk



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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector

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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