



Grace Notes April 2022

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





Illustration by Andrew Freshour

Table of Contents

Rector's Reflection	3
80 is only a number... ..	5
Afghans in Transition and "The Alphabet Song"	6
Celebrating Nowruz!	8
Update on How to Support Our Afghan Neighbors	10
Southern Convocation Report	11
GEC Book Group update.....	12
Does fasting produce slowing?	13
Ash Wednesday - 2022	14
Sunday Worship - March 13th, 2022	15
Sunday, March 20, 2022	15
Grace Church Blanketed in White	16
Prayer Vigil in Manchester.....	16
The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus	17
Save the Date! Saturday, June 18th, 2022	17
Congratulations to Our Rector	17
Congratulations Rachel Otto.....	18
Milestones	18
Vestry Meeting	18

Rector's Reflection - Pandemic Creativity

Traditions touch us. They connect us. They expand us. Rita Barreto Craig



I grew up in a family with four children. My mother began an annual tradition every spring from the time we were all quite



small. My brothers always got new suits for Easter. (Check out my older brother Fred in his 1970's duds!). While my sister and I received new church dresses. On Easter Day my sister always wore yellow and a white carnation corsage with a tiny duck embedded in the flowers, while I wore a pink dress and a corsage with a tiny bunny. Thus, I always looked forward to Easter. The appearance at church on Sunday in our finest fashions, the Easter egg baskets full of jelly beans, Peeps, and chocolate, and the evening feast of ham

and potatoes on fine china were patterns I could depend on. I always knew what to expect for Easter. The family traditions the Gerbracht clan established touched, connected, and expanded my soul.



Because of COVID, the past two Easters have been, well, weird. We have not been able to do what we normally do: listening to a joyful brass quartet at church, watching our children hunt for Easter eggs, attending a fabulous coffee hour, gathering with family and friends.

This year, our parish will reclaim traditions we have missed out on

because of COVID - a Holy Week full of multiple worship options to attend (both in person and on Zoom - your choice!) ending with brass music, joyful songs of resurrection, and even an egg hunt. However, we must remember at this moment in time many in our world are unable to evoke basic traditions that ground them. The people of Ukraine are under siege and are fleeing people, places, and routines sacred to them. They cannot go to their usual coffee shops, playgrounds, workplaces, and schools for fear of their lives. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers are risking their lives to defend their countries. Afghanistan neighbors are attempting to resettle in Manchester and cities across America. While doing so, they are holding tight to treasured traditions (like their celebration of festival of spring spoken about in this newsletter) as well as attempting to create new patterns of work, education, and speech as they learn a new language. Many people throughout our world are displaced and stressed. Much more so than we who live so far apart from the fighting in Eastern Europe and other places and spaces throughout our world.

This year, we ask that you be generous (as has always been your tradition and pattern in past years!) when it comes to your Easter donations, specifically those given for Easter memorials and thanksgivings. As usual, we will list in our Easter bulletin people we are thankful for, including the names of those who have died and now rest in God's arms. But instead of your money helping pay for Easter brass or flowers, we will send your financial support to the International Rescue Committee, an organization that provides basic needs, food, and support to our brothers and sisters uprooted by crises. Learn about this remarkable agency through the following link: <https://www.rescue.org/> You will soon receive an e-mail from our parish office about how to submit your Easter memorial gifts and remembrances for this year's Easter celebrations.

Finally, please consider joining us for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations at our parish listed on the next page.

NOTE: All services (with the exception of Tenebrae) will have Zoom access thanks to the leadership of our parish warden, Amy Brumfield. On Easter Day, thanks to the leadership of Michael Duffy and Dwight Simmons, there will be a festive coffee hour. Thanks to the leadership of Lauren Cline and Julie Turner, there will be an Easter Egg hunt directly following the 9:30 AM service.

Blessings, joy, and love,
Marjorie +

Sunday, April 10th @ 9:30 AM Palm/Passion Sunday
The Reverend Allan Knight, preacher

Wednesday, April 13th @ 7:30 PM Tenebrae

Thursday, April 14th @ 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday
The Reverend Marjorie Gerbracht, preacher

Friday, April 15th @ 3 PM Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk Through the City of Manchester
Led by the Reverend Christopher Potter

Friday, April 15th @ 7:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy
Shelley Kesselman, preacher

Saturday, April 16th @ 7:30 PM The Easter Vigil
The Reverend Marjorie Gerbracht, preacher

Sunday, April 17th @ 9:30 AM Easter Sunday With Choral Music and Brass
The Reverend Marjorie Gerbracht, preacher

Sunday, April 17th @ 11 AM Celebration of Life for Louis Hudon

80 is only a number...

I tell everyone who stands still long enough, "I'll be 80 on Easter Sunday!". The reason I do that is to convince myself. I feel 60, and my friend Michael says I act 50.

I do have reminders of my longevity: macular degeneration, balance issues which sometimes necessitate the use of a cane, and shortness of breath climbing hills or stairs. Remembering names of people or places occasionally has me at a loss. And then, there was Ash Wednesday, telling me that I am dust, and to dust I shall return.



But the positives far outweigh the negatives. The last two decades of my five decades long nursing career were primarily focused on hospice. I began to be thankful for things I had been taking for granted. For example, I can turn over in bed without help. I can feed myself. I drive, and read, and sing, and walk. So far, I wake up each morning.

Yes, I am aware of my mortality. But, by thinking of the new growth of Spring as opposed to the cold of Winter, and morning sun rather than the darkness of night, my attitude is that of hope and joy. I have a husband who loves me, and a cat who would rather be on my lap than anywhere else.

So, "Bring it on!", I say. Twenty more years? Maybe so. Meanwhile I will continue to count my many blessings.

Jane W Van Zandt+

Afghans in Transition and “The Alphabet Song”

We have heard about them, think about and pray for them and for those who have helped them. Now that they are here, what a privilege it is to continue helping in some small way.



There are those from around the city who have been involved with our neighbors at the International Institute of New England (IINE) for some time now. The team at Brookside Church, partnered with the IINE and headed up by the extraordinary leadership of Calley Milne, has already been doing wonderful work in providing cooking space for occasional group meals, organizing volunteer help, and helping many of the Afghan and a few Sudanese clients. They travel through the church's Thrift Shop to find clothing and other household items. Some from our parish have already donated to the Thrift Shop to help outfit these new friends, and there is a team of several volunteers helping with various needs. (Note: I hope you read Christine Stevens' wonderful article last month.)

I am a newcomer as part of the team from our parish and began volunteering in early February. On my first day as a “newbie,” I worked with a volunteer who comes in from out of town a few days a week. As we delivered lunches, we met handsome young boys with neat haircuts trying out their little bit of English on us; young girls of different ages, some with their lovely headscarves, chatting us up with enthusiastic stories about their new lives and going to school, and engaging with these strange people (us!); and warm welcomes by kind, proud, and appreciative parents. So very moved and humbled on my first day, I returned home and thought, “Today I saw the face of God.”

My part has been small: delivering lunches and driving people to work, job interviews, and medical appointments. One can only wonder about the stories behind what these people went through to get here and what many others went through to get them here. It is a little easier to see what others are doing now to help provide housing, food, clothing, medical care, and fulfill other needs. Some of the Afghan adults have rather good English; the children will learn quickly. The time will come that they'll all be more independent and find a new and safe life. Surely, learning a new language, finding a job, getting a car, learning to drive, experiencing a radically different culture, having children get to school, making friends, and forging the beginnings of relationships and a new

life with people in a strange new country is a “piece of cake,” right?

Something we don't know and, God willing, will never need to know...

Here's a story for you: I was asked to drive a father and son from their apartment to a local clinic. I arrived at the apartment, but due to a scheduling problem, Dad was at work and Mom was at home with four young children. Add in a flurry of phone conversations with the IINE coordinators and Dad, who did speak English. Mom spoke no English, the children knew but a few words. It was a very cold and windy day. In a gesture of hospitality (very important!), Mom donned her headscarf and motioned for me to come in and sit at the kitchen table while I waited for a return phone message. She looked at me and asked, “Juice?” This was likely the extent of her English. I thanked her, and watched as she cleaned out a red wine glass (of all things!) and poured out a dose of Tropicana for me. The four young children stood smiling and giggling. I didn't know what to do as I don't speak any of their language (which can be Pashto, Dari, Arabic, sometimes Hindi or Urdu), but relied on the universal smile and the universal gestures. Awkward much? When is my phone going to ring?



When one of the girls looked at me and said, “ABCDEFGH...!” I looked at her and said, “Oh, the alphabet! Do you know the song?” So I sang the alphabet song for them. The room fell quiet. One more time through the song. Giggles and smiles followed. Then the one of the girls showed off by rattling off her ABC's. Smiles from everyone. The awkward moment turned holy and bound these grateful people with little but a glass of juice to offer a stranger who had nothing to offer but a song. Said stranger ultimately drove off, deeply moved, grateful, tears welling up... One could say that the mission was not accomplished, yet it was very successful.

Accompanying photo: A gift from the wife of one of the families. I have driven her husband to and from work several times and gotten to know them a little. The bread is layers of a very thin dough alternating with Nutella and then cut, twisted, and baked with some sesame seeds on top. We shared it with three other couples who agree that it was a very pretty and delicious treat!

The need is huge. One of the other volunteers likened it to “trying to drink from a fire hose.” The IINE coordinators are marvelous, fearless, and perpetually exhausted, yet they help to make life easier for the volunteers with solid, safe organization often flavored with a dash of humor. It’s a messy business! But smiles abound. You can tell that, even though most connection is by phone, e-mail, or text.

Is there a place for you as part of the team? Please give it careful and prayerful consideration. Nancy-Ann Feren is our parish Outreach Coordinator and she’d be glad to talk to you. You can find a place that matches your comfort level and available time.

Warning: Your heart may sing!

Ken Grinnell

Celebrating Nowruz!

Welcome Spring! Welcome New Day! Welcome New Year!

Sunday, March 20th was the first day of spring for everyone in the Northern Hemisphere. Did you know that over 800 million Central Asians also celebrate the day as the first day of the New Year on the Persian solar calendar? This includes people who live in Iraq, Iran (formerly Persia), Afghanistan, Pakistan, parts of India, and others. Nowruz is Farsi (the language of Iran/Persia) for “New Day,” so it is like “Happy New Year.”



Nowruz, as I understand it from some of my new friends and from a little poking around online, is not a feast specific to Islam. Its roots go back to Zoroastrianism, a faith that began in Persia over 2,500 years ago. The Zoroastrians worshipped the elements of fire and water and were astronomers and astrologers. What’s more, we know that their calendar, like ours, was based on the sun (solar), whereas the Hebrew and Islamic calendars are based on the moon (lunar). This was 2,000 years before our Renaissance scientists (Kepler, Copernicus, and Galileo) got in more than a little trouble for suggesting that the sun, not the earth, was in the middle of things.

In graduate school, I learned that many scholars think that the famous “Three Wise Men” were actually Magi, Zoroastrian priests, who used their knowledge to seek the divine. As we know from our Gospels, the divine led them to a special moment in Bethlehem. Isn’t it interesting to

think that they, too, likely celebrated Nowruz?

As part of our work in helping our Afghan friends resettle through the International Institute of New England (see my other article and Christine Stevens' from the March issue of *Grace Notes*), the idea came forward to gather as many from the new community and the volunteers for a feast! And what a time we had! The women cooked at home and then prepared a communal feast in the kitchen at Brookside Church, where the festivities were held in the Fellowship Hall and outside. Eating and doing things outside are both important. The women especially dressed up in very colorful wear. Families gathered, and as a friend told me, "be prepared for mounds of food." - Food!

Main courses: 1. Chicken in five or six forms, 2. beef meatballs, 3. an enormous platter of basmati rice, 4. salad made from red cabbage, green peppers, cucumbers, and cilantro, 5. slices of a wonderful bread that looks like thick corduroy (prepared in Canada and shipped locally 2-3 times a week), and 6. spinach stewed with garlic, a little tomato and spices.

Desserts: 1. dried figs, 2. apricots, 3. little pastries made with dates wrapped inside, 4. a few American-style cookies and pastries. The featured item is *haft mewa* (Farsi for "seven fruits"). As its name suggests, seven fruits, but also nuts and all covered with water and soaked for a few days.



The children played outside for a while kicking around a football (“soccer ball” to us). The air-hockey table in the corner of the hall was a big attraction as were toys of all sorts for all ages. We who volunteer drove people to and from and did a lot of the usual work helping to set up and clean up.

Once again, it was a holy moment with new friends. I am humbled, have learned a lot, and enjoy sharing with all of you. Please remember, our Grace Church parish is a strong supporter of IINE through generous grants and monetary gifts, donations of household items, clothes, and furniture, generous with its prayers for these new friends, and has an active team of volunteers.

Ken Grinnell

Update on Supporting Our Afghan Neighbors

Dear Grace Church Family,

I continue to be thankful for all your support in helping new members of the Manchester community from Afghanistan settle into our state. Your rector, Marjorie, asked me for an update on items needed for our new neighbors. Below are the items that are in shortest supply. We did four apartment setups last week so are working to replenish on the following:

We are currently short on tea pots, tea carafes, and large stock pots. Everyone has a wishlist for irons, blenders, and basic pressure cookers. We also need more:

- Mens Small and Medium Undershirts
- Womens Medium and Large Bras (e.g. Hanes Smooth Tec Wire Free are stretchy)
- Liquid Laundry Soap (most of our families wash their clothes in their hotels bath rooms)
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Scrubbing Bubbles Bathroom Cleaner
- Mops
- Small garbage cans
- Large kitchen garbage cans



Again, thank you for spreading the word and for your ongoing support. We are doing incredible work in our community together and it continues to warm many hearts. Our newest neighbors are so appreciative of your help!

Kind Regards,
Calley Milne
Brookside Community Church Thrift Store

*Pictured previous page: An Instant Pot, four irons, and a kitchen garbage can purchased by our rector (from our parish discretionary fund) for our new Afghan neighbors

Southern Convocation Report

The Southern Convocation reconvened after its post-convention hiatus on February 22 via Zoom. Newly elected delegates and alternates were welcomed by returning members of the convocation.

Lay Co-convener Shelley Kesselman led a brief “Convocation 101” talk which summarized the purposes of our convocations, a calling together of regional parishes who tend to have common needs, challenges, and missions in ministry. A convocation is the equivalent of what other dioceses call a “deanery”. More specifically, convocations are intended to provide a liaison between parishes and the diocese, facilitate communication between dioceses, evaluate ongoing programs at every level, discuss convention issues and resolutions prior to convention, help delegates become well-informed about all aspects of diocesan life, discuss concerns and interests peculiar to that convocation, and collaborate on projects too large for a single parish to take on alone. The convocations are required to meet a minimum of 4 times per year, and more frequently if desired or directed to by the diocese.



There was a brief review of the 2021 Convention's business, and plans were started for our spring meetings. The plan is to continue via Zoom for the next few months, and re-evaluate toward the end of summer break. The hope is that we will be able to resume meeting in person for at least some of our regular meetings, but this will be done based on the numbers and CDC/diocesan guidelines at the time.

The convocation also elected Shelley Kesselman and The Rev. Kathy

Boss (priest in charge at Church of the Good Shepherd - Nashua) as its representatives to Diocesan Council. Each convocation sends one clergy member and one lay person to the Council, who then report back to the convocation as to what conversations are happening at the diocesan level. This information is then to be reported by the delegates to their respective parishes. The goal is two-way communication from parishes to convocation to diocese, and from diocese to convocation to parishes. Both Shelley and Kathy are excited to be serving in this way, and invite your prayers that they will do their jobs faithfully and well. They have attended the first Council meeting after, and will be reporting to the convocation at its March 22 meeting.

Grace's delegate team stands ready to represent our parish to the diocese and the diocese to our parish. Please let us know how we can be of the best service possible to you, the "vine" that is The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire, and of course to the Gospel of Christ.

Shelley Kesselman

GEC Book Group update

On Tuesday, March 15th a small, but feisty group of readers met to discuss the remarkable book *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. Published in 2010, this text is a historical study of the Great Migration, also known as the Great Northward Migration or the Black Migration. This migration occurred from 1910 to 1970 and was the steady movement of 6 million African Americans out of the rural Southern United States to the urban Northeast, Midwest, and West. The Great Migration was caused primarily by the poor economic conditions for African American people, as well as the prevalent racial segregation and discrimination in the Southern states where Jim Crow laws were upheld. The thoughtfully researched tome received a National Book Critics Circle Award. Tony Morrison described the book as, "profound, necessary, and a delight to read," while Tom Brokaw praised the work as, "an epic for all Americans who want to understand the making of our modern nation."

Our group had also chosen for our July book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* also by Isabel Wilkerson. Since we had a good discussion of *The Warmth of Other Suns* and because the topic, style, and length (approximately 500 pages) of *Caste* is similar, we decided to remove *Caste* from our planned reading schedule, though we might decide to read it in 2023.

Here are the upcoming books our parish book group plans on discussing in the months to come. Remember, we always meet at 12 noon on the third Tuesday of each month. As of now, we continue to meet on Zoom.

April 19th - *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

May 17th - *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck

June 21st - *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan

July 19th - *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah

August 16th - *A Good Apology: Four Steps to Making Things Right* by Molly Howes, PHD

If you are interested in joining our parish book group, please let our parish office know so we can include you in our list serve Zoom link!

Many thanks,
Marjorie Gerbracht and Renee Van Leuvan

Does fasting produce slowing?

I enjoy word games. The English language is particularly suited for it. One of my favorite examples is when I tell people that English is likely the only language that would have you park on a driveway and drive on a parkway.



Related to the idea of word gaming were some things connected to the current church season.

Some time ago, I decided that we could never own the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter because it is just Lent to us. But even when something is lent to us, we have a responsibility to use it properly. The purpose of Lent is to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Proper use of the time could include trying to figure out how to make the world a better place.

One feature of Lent is the discipline of fasting. The intent is for us to reduce our eating some of the things that are less good for us, whether it be reducing sweets or just reducing quantity. As I thought about this, I noticed that the Lenten season seems to slow down when we are fasting. It seems like fasting produces slowing. The days are still the same length, and our clocks haven't changed their speed, but the time spent in reflecting seems to put a pause into our busy schedule.

The ashes for Ash Wednesday are made by burning the palms left from the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. What if someone doesn't want the job of making ashes? Could they just palm it off on someone else? Interesting question.

When we do things over and over for year after year, they can get kind of routine and less meaningful, so I thought that it might be useful to view this season from a different perspective.

Dick Feren

Ash Wednesday - 2022



Sunday Worship - March 13th, 2022



Sunday, March 20, 2022

On the third Sunday of Lent we dedicated new Rose vestments gifted by Gail Schuman in memory of her husband, Robert Lee Schuman. These vestments will be worn for the first time at our parish on the fourth Sunday of Lent, also nicknamed “Laetare” Sunday (Latin for “Rejoice”), the halfway point of Lent.



Grace Church Blanketed in White

Thank you, Andrew Freshour, for capturing our parish campus, blanketed in white, after the March 9th snowstorm!



Manchester Prayer Vigil

On Tuesday evening, March 1st Moe and Barnaby Thomas and The Reverends Jane and Allan Knight were present and prayed at a Manchester city sponsored prayer vigil for Ukraine. Barnaby Thomas wrote:

Much heartfelt prayer tonight but sadly the turnout was small. Other than members of the press, Father Allan Knight, Jane, Moe, and

I were (I think) the only non-Ukrainian-Americans there. Candles were lit but guttered and died in the cold wind. A young girl standing in front of me clutched her stuffed elephant while her mother choked back tears and bravely sang along with a traditional Ukrainian song. And high above us the lonely steeple of City Hall standing tall in the darkness was bathed in blue and yellow light.

We pray for peace in the Ukraine and will be updating our parish soon about trusted places to donate.



The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus

The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus (NHGMC) invites you to attend their May 2022 concert "Let Me (Finally) Be the Music." Save the dates!

- Saturday May 14th – Londonderry United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Rd, Londonderry, NH
- Sunday May 15th – First Baptist Church of Nashua, 121 Manchester St, Nashua, NH
- Saturday May 21st – Concord Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton St, Concord, NH
- Sunday May 22nd – The Derryfield School, 2108 River Rd, Manchester, NH

Save the Date! Saturday, June 18th, 2022



Our parish is looking forward (for the very first time!) to sponsor a booth at the Queen City Pride Festival on Saturday, June 18th, 2022.

Interested in helping staff our parish booth and come up with creative and fun gifts and giveaways? Please contact our rector.

Congratulations to Our Rector

Our rector recently submitted a creative essay and formal application to the Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan to participate in a five day program at the Center for Excellence in Preaching.

Marjorie was awarded one of only twenty available slots to attend this summer's seminar "The Bowed Head: How Preachers Deal with Grief" from July 24th to July 29th. Additionally, the seminary agreed to provide housing and meals to both our rector and her children so that she could simultaneously attend class and parent.



Congratulations Rachel Otto

Congratulations to parishioner Rachel Otto who performed in her dance studio's recent recital (set to the music of the film *Frozen*) at the Saint Anselm Dana Center. Rachel's sister Katie (also a Grace Church parishioner) is an equally talented dancer as well!



Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following April birthdays celebrants!

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Bob Bell | 17 Jane Van Zandt |
| Edward High | Anay Leek |
| 12 Mark Thomas | 18 Tom Suckley |
| 13 Linda Garrish Thomas | 30 Meghann White |
| 16 Samuel 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

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Present: Julie Alig Scala, Valerie Anderson, Amy Brumfield, Carol

Cote, Hank Gagnon, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, Gail Schuman, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner, Meghann White

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Rev. Marjorie opened the meeting at 7:04 PM with a prayer. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

EMAIL VOTE: The Vestry voted to hire the brass for Easter Day for \$2000 with the monies coming from the Easter Brass budget (currently containing \$5.4K).

EMAIL VOTE: The Vestry voted to purchase a new vacuum for the sexton for \$699.

Since the Planning and Finance Committee had exceeded their prescribed duties and authority, it was necessary to review the by-laws (Articles 6.4 and 6.5) and discuss the proper procedural protocol regarding the Vestry and Committees. Basically, the Vestry is the only group (committee) which is elected by the parishioners and is the governing body of the church. All other committees are appointed by the Rector/Vestry and assist the Vestry in its work. The Agenda of the Vestry will be determined by the Vestry.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Valerie seconded by Hank and was carried. The reports included are Vestry Meeting (Jan-2022), Annual Meeting (Jan-2022), Rector's Report (Jan 2021/Feb-2022 as corrected and amended), Property Report (Feb-2022), Planning and Finance (Feb-2022), Endowment Committee (Feb 2022) and Music Department Report (Jan 19,2022&Feb 2&9,2022).

VOTE: A motion was made by Christopher and seconded by Gail to appoint Julie Alig Scala as Treasurer. The motion carried.

VOTE: A motion was made by Valerie, seconded by Hank to accept the January Financial Report. The motion carried.

Julie reported that the CD's were about to mature and recommended to transfer the money to a money market account.

VOTE: A motion to approve the signers for the financial accounts was made by Meghann and seconded by Carol. The motion carried

Nancy was asked to prepare a letter listing the current signers.

VOTE: A motion to roll over the money from the CD to a money market account was made by Teddi and seconded by Gail which carried.

The Vestry discussed the rental fees for Grace House. It was determined that we should maintain the current fees for this year. A separate account is maintained for Grace House; any profits are to be used for maintenance and improvement to the Grace House property.

VOTE: A motion to maintain all Grace House rental fees at their current level was made by Nancy and seconded by Meghann which carried.

Rev. Marjorie reported that she had spoken with Gary York about the gates. The archways have been laser measured and will be fabricated and then painted. They should be installed within 4-6 weeks. A mail slot will be provided, and the locks will match the locks at church doors.

A discussion was held about putting forward for priesthood a parishioner who has already completed divinity school. The Diocesan Clearness Committee would consider the candidate and make the decision.

VOTE: Gail made a motion to put forward Shelly Kesselman to the Diocesan Clearness Committee to be considered for priesthood. It was seconded by Hank and the motion carried.

We continued with a discussion about Safe Church. Chris will send out to everyone in the Vestry the current information as well as the log in information.

It was noted that there had been a problem transferring information on page 7 of the Parochial Report. Marlene will be updating it separately.

VOTE: A motion to accept the Parochial Report and send it to the Diocese was made by Christopher and seconded by Gail. The motion carried.

Rev. Marjorie reviewed the Ash Wednesday schedule. There will be two services: 12:30PM and 7:30PM. Ashes will be provided after both services. Ashes will be available before the 7:30PM service in the

courtyard; Hank and Christopher will be with Rev. Marjorie in the courtyard.

A discussion about moving to hybrid in-person and Zoom Vestry meetings was conducted. It was decided that all attending in person would bring a device to log into Zoom so that those only on Zoom would be able to see everyone. All the devices but one would be muted, and a microphone (attached to the only unmuted device) would be used.

VOTE: A motion to have the March Vestry Meeting move to hybrid in-person and Zoom was made by Christopher, seconded by Chris, and carried.

The Vestry also discussed how we could open our facilities to groups outside the church such as AA. A Protocol Committee consisting of Ken, Hank, and Rev. Marjorie will meet to discuss suggestions as to how to proceed. They will bring their suggestions to the next Vestry Meeting.

Amy reported that she had spoken to Scott Egan who was completing the audit. He said that it would be completed by Friday and be under budget.

A brief discussion was held about when we could lift the mask mandate at the church. This will be put on the agenda for the next Vestry Meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 9:40 PM

The next Vestry meeting March 16, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht, Rector

Vestry

Amy Brumfield, Warden
Christopher Messier, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Julie Alig Scala, 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

April 22, 2022