

Grace Notes May 2022

Our Mission Statement:

To know Christ & make Christ known

Grace Episcopal Church

106 Lowell St.

Manchester, NH





Rector's Reflection

Burning Bright

As a child, during worship I loved staring at something called the "sanctuary lamp." Every Episcopal Church has one. A candle, safely encased in a tall, fireproof casing, that burns 24/7, 365 days a year in a church (except when an Altar Guild member notices the candle has gone out and rushes to replace it with a new one!) The candle indicates that the reserved sacrament (the blessed body and blood of Christ) is present and safe in the aumbry or tabernacle, a recessed cabinet in the wall. The sanctuary lamp also is there to remind us that God is ever, always with us. God is constantly, consistently present and enfolding us.

As a teenager, I enjoyed staring, not at the sanctuary lamp itself, but at our parish bulletin for who the sanctuary lamp burned for each month. Different families took turns giving a donation to the parish, and in return the name of someone special who had died was listed in the program. As a teenager who spent a great deal of her spare time reading about near-death experiences, I was strangely comforted by the fact that the dead were always with us. The proof was in the print.

Our parish will begin offering the option of parish members donating \$20 to remember a specific person in one's life who continues to burn bright in your heart, even though that person has departed into God's arms. Your loved one will be listed in our Sunday bulletin for the month you select. Though we constantly remember those who have died and who we miss at specific masses, this practice will enable you to select a specific month (that person's birthday month or perhaps the month that they died) to honor your loved one. If you are interested in honoring someone you love during a particular month of the coming year, please contact our parish office or simply send a check (earmarked "sanctuary lamp" along with the name of that special one now enfolded in God's arms.

I continue to give thanks to all the ways our parish continues to burn bright. In this particular parish newsletter, you will read and see how Grace Church family members have helped needy children, tended to our building, sung and prayed to God, hosted a local cable access show, and celebrated important anniversaries and births. You will also read how we, as children of God, are encouraged to get out and about here, there, and everywhere - by singing on stage, being

present at our city's Pride Day, knitting in the great outdoors, or perhaps helping us plan and execute our first ever parish fair. Save the date - Saturday, November 12th!

I give thanks to all of you, who continue to burn bright. You who stand, sit, or lie in a hammock and enjoy the warmer days. You who continue to burn bright through your faithful worship on Sundays and continued support of our church.

Thanks be to God's light that burns bright in your compassion, your generosity, your presence, and your love. MG

Celebrating the Sundays in Easter

Second Sunday of Easter



Fourth Sunday of Easter



We are so very grateful for our devoted and hard-working choir and parish musicians who praise and pray to God through song, week after week.

Collect for Church Musicians and Artists

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



*What does the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with thy God?*

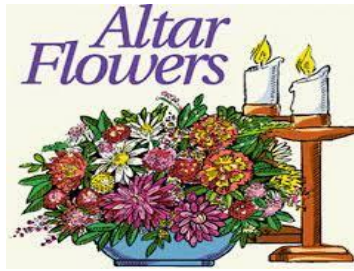


Come Out for Queen City Pride, 2022

Don't forget to join our parish as we celebrate that "Love is Love is Love" at this year's Manchester/ Queen City Pride Day on **Saturday, June 18th**. There will be a parade in downtown Manchester that will travel from the Foundry to Commercial Street to Canal Street to Fratello's from 10 AM to 12 PM. The Pride Festival will then take place from 12 to 6 PM at Arms Park.

Our parish family will be hosting a booth to raise awareness about the welcoming presence of our church to all God's children, as well as selling t-shirts and crafts to raise money for our parish's operating expenses and the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

Questions? Please contact parishioners Moe Thomas and Andrew Freshour



It seems like forever since we had flowers on the altar! The good news is that we will be resuming that practice, effective immediately. Unfortunately, the cost of floral arrangements has increased since the beginning of 2020. We are, therefore, asking for a contribution of **\$40** if you would like a memorial or a thanksgiving on any particular Sunday.

I will be emailing on a month-to-month basis, those of you who had commemorative flowers in 2019 and early 2020. If you are new to the parish or to the process and would like to have a memorial or a thanksgiving on a particular date, feel free to email me (ciaomarinno2@gmail.com) with that information and whatever wording you would like published.

You can send a check to the church office or drop it in the collection plate. Be sure to write "Altar Flowers" and the date of the commemoration on the memo line.

News of acceptance of a new position

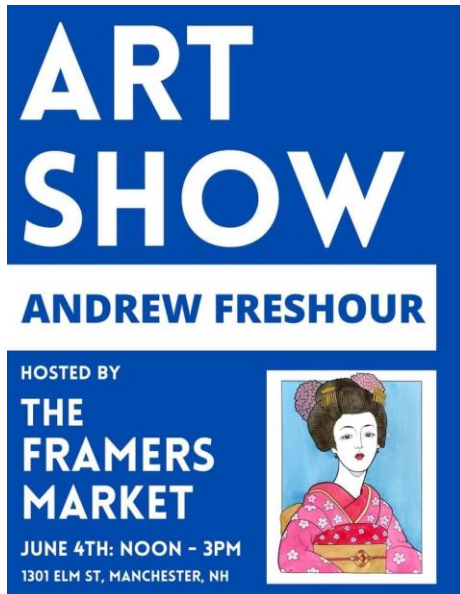
To my dear Grace Church family,

I wanted to let you know of my decision to accept the full-time Organist/choir Director position at Church of our Savior, Episcopal, Milford N. H. This has not been an easy decision, as I have such deep roots with all of you: my family. However, after almost 20 years with Mark, Carter and Ken Grinnell, I have had such marvelous exposure to the finest of sacred classical Christian musical repertoire, as well as first rate choral instruction with outstanding musicians that I am in a greater position to support the Milford church family in their time of need.

I must say that my heart went out to that community after hearing of their simultaneous loss of their Rector and Organist. Being in a position to offer a sense of "continuity in worship", and then seeing the fruits of those efforts blossoming with such joy and appreciation has been enormously affirming of this particular calling. All that being said, having negotiated my summer months off means I will be able to see you frequently over the summertime.

With sincere love and deep gratitude for our wonderful years together,
David

Parishioners in the Community



Don't miss this opportunity to view the
work of our own talented
Andrew Freshour
June 4th



Zach Stagnaro will perform the lead role of
"The Cat in the Hat" at the Palace Theatre
Apprentice Company's production of
Seussical Jr. on June 15th and 16th at 7:00 pm.
(Zach shared this role with two other actors
in 2019.) Tickets are on sale now at the Palace
Theatre Box Office.

Adults. \$15.00
Children. \$12.00

Congratulations to Davan Muir (pictured here with her friend Jaelani) who performed the role of Penny in Disney's 101 Dalmatians on Saturday, April 30th at the Palace Theater in Manchester.



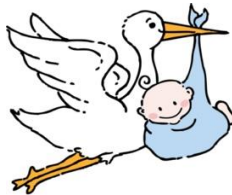
Parishioner Roger Bleau hosts a weekly half hour talk show on a local cable access TV channel. Roger films his show in a studio every Tuesday in downtown Manchester. The show airs weekly on Channel 23 vis Comcast, on Thursdays at 1:00 pm, Fridays at 7:00 pm, Saturdays at 1:30 pm and Sundays at 10:00 pm. Congratulations to Roger for his courage in being a public presence on screen and to his wife, Michelle, for celebrating and supporting him in his media endeavors.

Milestones



Congratulations to Leona and Jim Thomas, pictured here with their daughter Cheryl. The couple recently celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary.

Loving God, look gently upon mothers of newborn and young children, give them energy, patience, gentleness and happiness in these fleeting days of sticky hands, messy houses and ever flowing laundry. Bless mothers who are raising school aged children and teenagers, give them peace and joy in parenting in moments that seem both hard and wonderful all at the same time. Bless mothers who from afar watch and wonder about their adult children, give them perspective and wisdom as their children make choices and live their own lives. Healing God, comfort all people who mourn the absence of their mother today from death or illness or because of broken and challenging relationships. Comfort those who had hoped to be mothers but have been unable to do so and those who continue to hope to become mothers. Ever present God, embrace and comfort those mothers who mourn over the loss of their own children. Gracious God, help us to recognize all the women who have guided us and loved us like mothers, shining forth as an example of the deepness of the love you offer each of your beloved children. Bless us and keep us today in that love and always. In your name we pray. Amen.



Best wishes and congratulations to parishioners Brian and Lisa Mathison, who welcomed into God's world their first grandchild, Tamen Charles Mathison, on April 27, 2022 at 4:10 AM. Their grandson weighed 5 pounds, 4 ounces and was 17.5 inches long at birth. Mom and baby are doing wonderfully.

Congratulations to parishioners Lex Duval and Katherine Moretti who (as of the crafting of this newsletter) are expecting their first child to arrive on Monday, May 23rd, 2022. Recently GEC parishioner Charity Frost hosted a baby shower for her twin sister. Parishioners Kelley Muir, mom-to-be Katherine Moretti, Charity, Violet, and Emma Frost, our rector and her children, Fiona and Zachary Stagnaro all attended the event.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following June, July and August birthday celebrants

June

11 Lissa Foote
Nicholas Girgus
David Murray
19 Carol Boire
20 Julie Turner
22 Mary Atwell
26 Mark Cleveland
28 Ken Kjellander
29 Gray Chynoweth
30 Pauline Bell

July

3 Anne Harvey
7 Kenneth Fox
Herb Perez-Ramos
8 Susan Tonnar
11 Blake Leister
12 Stanley Paras
Benjamin Thomas
13 Ethan Cline
17 Lyndsay Stenbeck
Brian Guimond
18 Betsy Staulcup
19 Marcus Forand
22 Kurt Wicks
25 Linda Chamberlain
28 Zachary Stagnaro
29 Clare White
31 Rick Maloney

August

3 Tom Suckley III
6 Nicole Otto
9 Katie Otto
10 Mary Baron

12	Lauren Cline
13	Linda Heath
14	Barbie Fox
19	Ernie Marino
22	Stephen Cornish
25	Sebastian Cline
29	Micah Brumfield
	Dick Feren
	Nancy Johnson
	Andre Laurion
30	Jane Charlesworth

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



2022 World Wide Knit in Public Day

When: Saturday June 11, 2022
 Rain Date: Saturday, June 18, 2022
 Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Where: Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
 3 Peabody Row (Corner of Mammoth and Peabody Row)
 Londonderry, NH 03053

This is the largest knitter run event in the world! Come join the "Fiber Foxes of Southern New Hampshire" on Saturday, June 11th and knit with us. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or any other fiber-based project and join us for a day of community, conversation, and fun.

Due to the pandemic and to keep everyone safe, we will only meet outside on the grounds of the church at 9 AM. Come and go as you please. If it is a nice day, please bring a chair or blanket and whatever food or beverage you desire.

We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions or need any help getting there, please contact Karen West at (603) 505-6401

Being comfortable with getting rather than giving

In general, people tend to be more comfortable when they are giving something away rather than receiving something, and more comfortable when they are reaching out to help rather than having someone reach to help them.

When Nancy-Ann had foot surgery recently, I knew I was going to have to do many of the things that she would normally do, but that didn't bother me. We each do different things around the house, and this was going to be an opportunity for me to learn more about some of her tasks, and better understand what she did. The extra tasks took me extra time, but I'm getting better at them.

During Nancy's recovery time, I was concerned about how I would deal with all the meals that would be delivered for us. My first reaction was to think that "I don't need this. I can prepare our food." But, when the "freight cars" of the Meal Train started to arrive, I was very positive and grateful. One thing I had not expected was the visits and conversations with the people bringing the meals. That gave us an opportunity to learn about them, and for them to learn more about us. It provided a definite positive to our problem.

I am very grateful.

Dick Feren

Vestry Minutes - April 20th

Present: Julie Alig **Scala**, Valerie Anderson, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, Gail Schuman, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner, Meghann White

Excused: Hank Gagnon

Rev. Marjorie opened the hybrid meeting at 7:10 PM with a prayer. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

EVOTE: A motion was made by Amy and seconded by Christopher that we use ProPoint to do the repair work on the arches as indicated, with Gary York and Ken Rhodes overseeing as they did for the Steeple work, and that we utilize the money in our emergency fund to cover the cost, then replenish it with the next Endowment distribution. The motion carried.

EVOTE: The Vestry discussed whether we should require masking to be reinstated or to continue as we have been doing. The Vestry voted that we continue with allowing people to decide what is right for themselves.

EVOTE: The Vestry voted that we expend \$1450 from our Property budget to pay Garcia to do the landscaping, weeding, and mulching before Easter.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Gail seconded by Teddi and was carried. The reports included are Vestry Meeting (Mar-2022), Rector's Report (Mar- 2022/ Apr-2022, Property Report (April-2022), and Music Department Report (Mar 23, 30 & Apr 6,2022).

Julie reported that the March financials were not ready. The Vestry requested that she send the March financial to the members when completed. She also reported that she was now a co-signer for Citizens Bank.

Amy reported that the final audit report is not yet complete.

Rev. Marjorie reported the following:

- we need a Website Coordinator
- we need Newsletter Coordinator
 - Vestry recommended that we pare down the size of the newsletter
 - Vestry recommended that we have a single newsletter for May-June and a single newsletter for August-September
- Acolytes will be contacted by Lyn and/or Marlene
- We need to resume Laundry Love – need a coordinator

The Vestry discussed the request to have “Conversation Circles with Afghan refugees” be held at Grace Church Great Hall. This would entail having a family work on English in conversation with a couple of adults (at least one of whom would be a parishioner). This would occur once a week. The family would be responsible for and monitoring any children in attendance. The Vestry recommended that a log of attendees (with date and time) be kept.

VOTE: A motion to allow to allow the Conversation Circle to be held at Grace with a log being kept was made by Christopher and seconded by Ken which carried.

The current Human Resource Committee was formed in November 2018 as an advisory cohort. After prayerful discussion, the committee has determined unanimously that its work should be continued under another leadership team. The Vestry will be responsible for all the areas that the Human Resource Committee has identified.

Meghann led a discussion concerning grants. She reported that we had received four applications for the grants. She questioned if we were able to fund the grants or if we would have to utilize the endowment for operating expenses. The Vestry would like to wait to decide until they can review the current financials. Meghann will send the four applications to the Vestry members and will supply a summary of their requests.

Emery has been doing a wonderful job cleaning the mess that is left by the homeless. We thank him for his work.

We had very good attendance for our Holy Week services.

The meeting concluded at 8:42 PM

The next Vestry meeting May 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

Masonry Update



Special thanks to ProPoint Restoration LLC (whose onsite staff are pictured with our sexton Emery Freethey) for fitting us into their busy schedule to repair masonry issues that were located on, around, and above our three archways. Kudos also to parishioner Ken Rhodes who supervised this project until it was completed and to parishioner Gary York, who is overseeing the construction of metal gates that will soon grace our courtyard openings.

Grace Church Book Group

On Tuesday, May 17th our parish Book Group met to discuss the well-known classic The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck. Written in 1931, the novel dramatizes the life of a family in a Chinese village in the early 20th century. It examines issues of traditional Chinese culture, feminism, and slavery through the life of a peasant farmer named Wang Lung. The book is the first of the author's House of Earth trilogy, and the plot is continued in the book Sons (published in 1932) and A House Divided (1935).

We have a strong, core group of nine parishioners, all women, who have been attending our parish book group on Zoom regularly since the pandemic began. We intend, for now, to continue on Zoom and plan to meet for one hour, starting on time at 12 noon, ending on time, and only discussing the book. As much as we love gathering and chatting about our lives and our parish, our hope is that by starting and ending on time we might attract new members who might enjoy spending a focused hour on discussing great books.

Our next meeting will take place on Zoom on Tuesday, June 21 at 12 noon. The book we will be discussing then is The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan. This is a heartwarming novel of four seeming disparate women, living in a small village during World War II. Because it is war time and it is hard to get simple ingredients, the four women enter a British cooking competition (judged by a man) who will decide which of the four, based on their culinary talents, will be awarded a prize of becoming the co-host of a popular radio program known as The Kitchen Front.

Because many of our members are busy, traveling, and/or on vacation during the summer months, the group decided we will not meet in July or August. Future books we plan on discussing are for September 20th: The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah and October 18th: A Good Apology: Four Steps to Making Things Right by Molly Howes.

We hope that everyone finds quality time this summer on the beach, by the lake, at home, or while traveling to indulge in a good book!

Much love,
Marjorie +



Dear Grace Church Family,

I am pleased to announce that as part of the Fundraising Committee's efforts to raise additional funds to support our Operating Fund, we will be hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, November 12 at Grace Church. Our hope is to engage a variety of art vendors to participate and sell their crafts. If you know someone who would be interested in participating, please let us know! In addition, we will feature a raffle with various donated arts, crafts and gifts as well as some delectable food options. We hope that you will join us!

Our next planning meeting will be June 5th after church in the library. Should you have ideas or a willingness to donate your time or talent to this Fall Festival, please let us know. We look forward to this opportunity to come together as a church family, engage with the Manchester community and raise money for our church.

Sincerely,
Meghann White

Grace Episcopal Church

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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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Andrew Freshour

Next Newsletter Deadline

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