



Grace Notes
December
2022

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



Rector's Reflection

"We all have a relentless yearning to attach and connect, to love and be loved. This relationship hunger is the fiercest longing of the human soul." Dave Earley, British drummer and percussionist

The Christmas drum has begun to beat. We see it in Black Friday ads in our e-mail inbox, in stores with decorations up the day after Halloween. Hope balances against an internal, intense pressure to have a brighter holiday season than the one before. We remember past moments with others gathered around a table or Christmas tree. We long for joyful, filling interactions in the coming days that will sustain our souls. As our Holy Eucharist challenges us each week: "Lift up your hearts."

Some of us struggle with holiday time. We look at our Thanksgiving table, seeing empty chairs that once belonged to people we loved who have joined God in heaven or perhaps left due to divorce or a family rift. For those of us in that category (I am one of them!) I offer you the wisdom of the Lutheran pastor Nadia Boltz-Weber. *"For Americans celebrating Thanksgiving or Christmas for the first year without the presence of someone you loved, or among people who do not know how to love you well, or with folks who don't help with the dishes, or alone, or with someone else's family who eat (God help us) instant mashed potatoes - you got this, it's one day. I promise you that the day AFTER Thanksgiving will come. It will. Be gentle with yourself."*

Recently one of you observed one of the most spiritual experiences you ever had was attending **Manchester's Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil**. At that event, the names of the homeless who have died over the past year are read aloud and remembered. This year, for the 2nd year in a row, our parish choir will be singing at that service on **December 21st at 6 PM in Veterans Park**. I hope many of you will join us there.

I am so very grateful for how all of you already have embraced the holy beat of Christ's drum that calls us to worship and serve others. For the \$7,500 in donations that enabled us to provide gift cards for children. For the 33 parish preachers/writers who submitted daily meditations that were compiled together in a booklet for spiritual use this holiday season. (Special thanks to Carter Beck, who formatted and edited this year's Advent Word Meditations booklet and in particular the three young people who wrote for this project: Zachary Stagnaro, Micah Brumfield, and Quinn Turner.) For the tremendous dedication of many service-minded parishioners who are helping Afghan refugees and the homeless through the work of 1269 Cafe and Anchors In Hope. For all of you who are knitting or purchasing warm woolies for school children that are hung on our Mitten tree.

Jesus was born into the world homeless. He walked and talked to the beat of his own drum. He lived against the world's standards, choosing kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and love over cruelty, ignorance, hatred, and anger. As we move closer to the manger, may we live more and more by Christ's standards and not the world's.

As I wrote this reflection my son cuddled nearby with our pug in a large, overstuffed chair. Out of the blue Zach observed. "I am so glad to look around and see everything

I have been given: you working and typing. My cuddly blanket. My sweet dog. The light coming through the window. Our beautiful fireplace. (Zach was seeing a video of a crackling fire on TV thanks to YouTube!). We are so very blessed."

However wonderful or difficult this holiday season may be, I pray we can look around and give thanks. May we find and be found by God in all times, places, and spaces.

Much love,
Marjorie +



Holiday Services at Grace Church

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Children's Service, 4 pm – Hybrid Worship
Sacred Concert, 7:30 pm/Choral Eucharist, 8 pm – Hybrid Worship

Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am (ZOOM ONLY)

New Year's Day

Holy Eucharist – 9:30 am
Followed by a festive potluck brunch 10:30 am



Special Invitation from the Chefs:

Please join us in the Great Hall on New Year's Day for a potluck brunch immediately following the Sunday service. We will be celebrating until 2 pm and hope to see you there.

Susan Tonner & Ernie Marino



Milestones



Happy Birthday to the following December birthday celebrants!

5	Cheryl Thomas	16	Michelle Garneau
10	Charlie Woodbury	21	Kathie-Ann Day
11	Caroline Stenbeck		Nancy Girgus
13	Bernie Tonnar	23	Liz Jestude
14	Miclana Linares	25	Kelly Farragher-Paras
	Gray Chynoweth	27	Carol Cote

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.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 830

Deaths:

Dr. David Chandler Charlesworth – November 14th, 2022



VESTRY MEETING - Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Present: Valerie Anderson, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Ken Kjellander, Nancy Johnson, Teddi McIntosh, Christopher Messier, Gail Schuman, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner

Excused: Meghann White

Reverend Marjorie opened the hybrid meeting at 7:04 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 Hank seconded by Valerie and was carried. The reports included are Vestry Meeting (Aug-2022), Planning and Finance Report (Sept-2022), Endowment Committee (Aug-2022), Property Report (Sept-2022), Stewardship Committee (July-2022), and Music and Worship Committee (Aug 31, Sept 7, 2022).

VOTE: A motion was made by Christopher, seconded by Teddi to accept the August Financial Reports with the corrections. The motion carried.

The Vestry discussed how the Endowment Income should be allocated for the remainder of the year. It was determined that before we could decide, we had to get a clearer handle on the status of the budget vs definite income and expenditures and to have the actual current amount of the endowment income. We had made our decisions on how to allocate the endowment income based on the amount that we were receiving last year which this year is not as high. We requested more information be provided for our next meeting.

VOTE: A motion to appoint Jim Higgins as treasurer to finish out Julie Alig Scala's term until January 2025 and to appoint Tom Stevens as assistant treasurer to serve until January 2023 was made by Gail and seconded by Teddi. The motion was unanimously approved.

An adjustment to our outdoor sign indicating our services times as 8 AM and 10 AM has been made.

A brief discussion was had about the attendance and sustainability of two services. The Vestry will consider the issue in a few months.

The Vestry had a few questions concerning the Security Camera installation. A vote will be taken at the next meeting after the questions are clarified and we have a clearer understanding of the current state of our budget.

Rev. Marjorie reported that she, Emery, Bruce, Gary, and Amy had met with Jeff Belanger, Manchester City Planner concerning the mixed used development that is going to be built in the parking lot across the street and the lot on Pearl Street. The problem that we, the Catholic church, and others face is the elimination of parking. Discussions and some type of solutions need to be made with the city.

Grace House has had the roof replaced, the outside of the house painted, and a redo of the bathroom. The back stairs need to be repaired as well. Ann Hewins is looking to find a new tenant to replace the one that has left.

Rev. Marjorie reported that tentative plans have been made to have a Sunday School event once a month. The events discussed were as follows:

- Movie Night
- Trunk or Treat
- Saturday, November 5th young folks meet with Presiding Bishop
- Rent a trolley and distribute cookies/goodies to fire and police depts, and homeless

The Vestry approved the church sign up to lock the price of the gas supply which Liberty Utilities offered (fixed rate of \$1.7535 per therm).

The meeting concluded at 8:28 pm

The next Vestry meeting: October 19th, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

Return of the Grace Church Knitting Retreat

On October 29th, 2022, knitters from all over southern New Hampshire gathered in the Great Hall to knit and laugh and spend some quality time together. This was the first event since COVID. In 2019, the year of the last retreat, 32 people participated. This year there were 20 people over the course of the day, which the organizers felt was a good turnout. In the past food had been served but this year the organizers asked participants to bring their own lunches and coffee and water were provided. It turned out great and no one ended up cleaning everything up while everyone else knitted. The organizers hope to make this an annual event again. Thanks to everyone who attended and made it such a great day.

Linda Chamberlain



Grace Church Book Group



The holiday season is a busy one for all members. We have decided not to meet in December, reconvening on the third Tuesday of January at 12 noon. Remember: one can attend in person (we meet in the parish library) or join us via Zoom. Contact Marjorie or our parish office to receive a Zoom invitation.

Here are the next six books we will be reading:

Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 – All the Lonely People by Mike Gayle

Tuesday, February 21st – The Henna Artist by Aika Joshi

Tuesday, March 21st – The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Lawson

Tuesday, April 18th – Antarctica: An Intimate Portrait of a Mysterious Continent
by Gabrielle Walker

Tuesday, May 18th – American Dirt by Jeanine Cummings

Tuesday, June 20th – Mirror Made of Rain by Naheed Phiroze Patel

Ataxia Update

Thank you to everyone at Grace Church who made a donation this year knowing that rising prices in the grocery store and at the gas pump are having an impact on all of us. NAF reports raising over \$250,000 to date through Walk n Roll/Fundraisers to support their fight against ataxia. This allows NAF to continue providing support, education, and research to the Ataxia community. As of late November, we have raised over \$3300 with an additional \$500 on its way bringing us up over \$3800. In 2021 we met our goal of \$4000 and it's possible we will meet it again this year. If you are interested in making a **donation of any amount please** go to: <https://igfn.us/vf/NAFLIVE/JillPorter> If you prefer to make a donation by check, please make your check payable to: National Ataxia Foundation or NAF and give it to me in church or mail it to me. Please do this before Dec. 10th.

Thank you for taking a moment to check out our page and for your caring concerns for us during this past year.

Jill and Ken Porter

Outreach Update

Thanks to help from so many parishioners, the Outreach Committee was able to purchase 100 Target gift cards at \$75 each. The cards have been delivered to the social workers at McDonough and Wilson Schools who will deliver them to the parents of 50 children at each school. The parents are looking forward to shopping for their children. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a happy occasion for so many families.

Nancy Ann Feren, Chairperson



A note from our Parish Administrator...

Thank you does not seem to be enough to say for all the support through your cards, phone calls, meals, gift certificates and prayers that I have been the recipient of over these past 6 weeks. Everyday life that we take for granted comes to a screeching halt when one breaks one's shoulder of their dominant side (and one's husband does not have the use of his dominant hand). The meals were such a luxury. Both Dick and I looked forward to each delivery. Everything was so delicious. What a wonderful bunch of cooks Grace Church has. I am blessed to be a part of such a caring, supportive, and loving community.

Marlene Thompson

Slightly Crooked Pies

Congratulations to parishioner Lauren Collins-Cline who was featured in the November publication of The Hippo. The weekly feature "In the Kitchen" interviewed Lauren about her new business venture, Slightly Crooked Pies. Her business gets its name from the "crooked kitchen" of Lauren's 18th century home, where the oven sits on a sloped floor. Around the holiday season of 2020 and into 2021 was when Lauren decided to turn her passion into a business. In September Lauren won first place at the New Hampshire Farm Museum's Great New Hampshire Pie for her Sweater Weather Pie. (See recipe below.)

You can find Lauren's pies at several local spots, like Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop in Manchester, the farm stand at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, and the artisans' market at the Cider Mill Gallery (24 Francestown Road, New Boston). Slightly Crooked Pies will be accepting Christmas pre-orders as well.

Sweater Weather pie

From the kitchen of Lauren Collins-Cline of Slightly Crooked Pies

2 firm pears (D'Anjou or Bartlett varieties are preferred) and a mix of 3 or 4 other baking apples of a similar firmness
2 Tablespoons brown sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon
Scant ¼ teaspoon cardamom
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 9-inch pie crusts
1 egg yolk
1 Tablespoon + 1 teaspoon cream

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Peel, core and slice the fruit. Toss in a bowl with sugar and spices and let stand while rolling out

the top and bottom crusts. Line a pie pan with one crust and fill with the fruit mixture. Add the top crust, crimping or fluting the top and bottom crusts together along the edge of the pan. Mix the yolk and cream and brush over the pie top. Place in the oven. After 15 minutes, reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees and bake for another 35 to 40 minutes. The pie will begin to bubble juice and the top should be a golden brown. To keep the filling and edges of the pie from shrinking in the cooling process, turn the oven off when done baking and let the pie sit in the oven for another 10 minutes. Crack the door and let it stand for 10 minutes more before removing to a cooling rack. The pie stores well, covered, at room temperature and is best eaten within four to five days.

Eating your way to Retirement



Nancy-Ann and I usually go out to eat about 10 times a year. Sometimes it is for a full meal, and sometimes for hamburgers or ice cream. We often eat only part of the meal, and bring the rest home for one or two more meals. Our average cost each time is about \$60, but the effective cost of eating out is only about \$20-30 because we keep and use the leftovers. That means our effective cost for eating out is about \$250 per year. Listening to stories on the radio, and stories from other people, we have heard that some families spend about \$100 per week eating out.

I'm sure they enjoy eating out, but let's look at it from another perspective. \$100 per week is about \$5,000 per year. If that amount were invested each year, it would provide a considerable retirement fund. Think about it this way: If someone started at age 25 and put \$5,000 per year into a retirement account, by age 70 they would have over \$600,000 in their retirement fund (assuming 4% annual compound interest). Some people prefer to wait until they have a higher annual income, figuring that they could put in a higher annual amount for a shorter time and get the same result. It doesn't always work that way. If they waited for 20 years (until age 45) and then started putting away \$10,000 per year, it would have cost them an additional \$25,000 and they would only have about \$500,000 by age 70. That's an effective loss of \$125,000. Something to think about?

Dick Feren

Support Our Parish's Youth Performers

Davan Muir and Zachary Stagnaro have both been cast in the Palace Theatre's professional show A Christmas Carol. If you enjoy this annual tradition, please consider attending to support our younger parishioners. Davan will be in the performances running from December 1st through December 4th. Zachary will be performing in the shows running from December 8th through December 11th.

Davan will be performing in The Nutcracker at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm's on December 17th and 18th.

Zach will be performing in the New Hampshire School of Ballet Christmas Recital on December 4th at 2 PM at Memorial High School in Manchester.

Presiding Bishop's Young People's Gathering

Thank you to Kelley and Mannix Muir, Shelley Kesselman, and Fiona Stagnaro for rising early on Saturday, November 5th to attend a Meet and Greet event at Gibson's Bookstore in Concord with our bishop, the Right Reverend Robert Hirschfeld and our Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael Curry.





A Bittersweet Journey

I've known for some time that we are all getting older. After some deliberation, I may have come up with a plan. My contemporaries are scattered across the country, and I would like to spend time with them, one at a time, before one of us dies.

Savitri (MD) and I were bedside nurses together in Baltimore. Carter (NC) was a beloved seminary professor. Jim (MS) and I share a love of choral and organ music, traveling to England to pursue that passion. Sally (CO) is a Boston University School of Nursing classmate. Therese (OR) and I were night nurses in a hospice for several years. Helen (UT) and I travelled to many countries, singing with the NH Friendship Chorus. Emory (VT) was my choir director many years ago. These "forever friends" range in age from 76 to 87.

Do you have friends to whom you'd like to say goodbye? Special people who have been important in *your* life? I see this as a "carpe diem" opportunity. Do it now.

Jane W. Van Zandt +



Fall Parish Clean Up

Special thanks to the nine parishioners who volunteered at our Annual Fall Outdoor Clean Up: Roger Bleau, Julie, Even and Quinn Turner, Emery Freethy, Ken Grinnell, Danni Lee Leonard, Ann Hewins and Bruce Thomas.



Parish Life



Christopher Messier



Shelley Kesselman.



Meghann White



Grace Church Choir



Christine Anderson, Ernie Marino



Dick Feren, Mary Atwell



Charlie, Brian, and Claire White



Ken Rhodes, Ernie Marino, Ken Grinnell



Rector with Kaydance Lassonde
and Eve and Quinn Turner



Rector with Liz Jestude



Carter Beck

Ken Grinnell

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Clergy

The Reverend Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht, Rector

Assisting Clergy

The Reverend Allan Knight
The Reverend Jane Van Zandt

Vestry

Amy Brumfield, Warden
Christopher Messier, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk

Valerie Anderson, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Ken Kjellander, Chris Turner
Teddi McIntosh, Gail Schuman, Barnaby Thomas, 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
Jim Higgins, Treasurer
Tom Stevens, Assistant Treasurer

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Next Newsletter Deadline

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