



## Grace Notes April 2024

Our Mission Statement:  
To know Christ and to make Christ known

Grace Episcopal Church  
106 Lowell Street  
Manchester, NH



It cost God nothing, so far as we know, to create nice things: but to convert rebellious wills cost him Crucifixion. C. S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity*, Chapter 10)

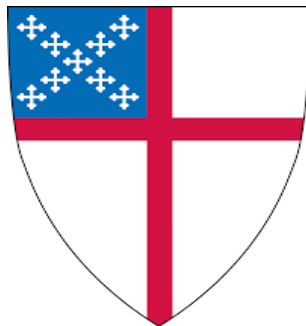


### **The Reverend Edward M. Cardoza**

The Reverend Edward M. Cardoza served on staff at the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as commissioner for property stewardship. Fr. Ed was previously the rector of St. Mark's Church in Foxborough, MA. He is co-founder of Still Harbor, a non-profit focused on spiritual development. He has been a professional fundraiser; board member of over a half-dozen global health organizations and community-based nonprofits including Partners In Health; and consultant to hundreds of institutions preserving sacred space, reimagining facilities and developing their land holdings. Examples include restoration of a condemned convent as a center for discernment and action for Still Harbor; renovation of the rectory at the former St. Luke's and St. Margaret's in Allston, now home to an intentional community of CRECHE; and restoration of a condemned parish hall in East Oxford, England, now an active community center.

Father Ed began his undergraduate education in Art History/Archival Science at Bates College and finished with a B.A. in Philosophy and Theology from Saint John's Seminary College of Liberal Arts in 1994. He received a Master's in Arts in Ministry from Saint John's Seminary School of Theology in 2003. He completed a practicum in spiritual direction at the Center for Religious Development through the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 2014, he was a Canterbury Scholar at Canterbury Cathedral and received a certificate in Celtic Spirituality from Sarum College in Salisbury. He also served on the board of Episcopal City Mission and Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation.

Father Ed lives with his spouse, Albert A. Cummings, in Peterborough, NH where they are just completing an historic restoration of an abandoned farmhouse. Al is a retired historic preservation carpenter, an avid sailor and potter. They are joined in life's adventure with their dog, Archie.



**Milestones  
April 2024**



**MILESTONES**

Happy Birthday to the following April birthday celebrants!

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 4 Bob Bell                 | 10 Edward High, Donna McQuade           |
| 12 Mark Thomas, Gary York. | 13 Bill Bochinski, Linda Garrish Thomas |
| 16 Samuel Thomas           | 17 Jane Van Zandt                       |
| 18 Tara Chynoweth          | 20 Rich MacIntosh, Barbara Rand         |
| 29 Jason Thomson           | 30 Meghann White                        |

Please note: 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.

**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 8**



## Messenger

My work is loving the world.  
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird –  
equal seekers of sweetness.  
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.  
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?  
Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me  
keep my mind on what matters,  
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be  
astonished.  
The phoebe, the delphinium.  
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.  
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart  
and these body-clothes,  
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy  
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,  
telling them all, over and over, how it is  
that we live forever.

+ Mary Oliver

## **Important Outreach Announcement**

**All are invited to our Outreach Meeting at 6:30 on Wednesday, April 10 in the Grace Church library. Whether you are a long time outreach worker, an occasional supporter, or someone new to our parish, we would like your input. We need your ideas and your support.**

Grace Church has had an Outreach Committee for at least 40 years but during that time many outreach activities have been done that were not under the auspices of the committee. We would like to remedy that by bringing everyone together to discuss what has been done in the past, what is being done now, and what we would like to see in the future. The list below is not comprehensive but will give you an idea of some of our Outreach activities.

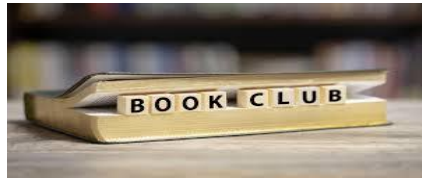
**Refugees and immigrants** – In the past Grace Church has sponsored immigrant families from Vietnam, Poland, and Sudan. More recently many parishioners have been working with Afghan evacuees. We have provided small group language lessons and help with cars, taxes, shopping, and banking needs. Thanks to two grants from the Diocese of NH, a \$10,000 Our Kids Grant to work with Afghan evacuee children and a \$5,000 Reconciliation Grant to work with Adult Afghan evacuees, we have been able to sponsor a variety of events. Children enjoyed field trips to The New England Aquarium and the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center as well as a Literacy Lunch for families. Bowling events have been held for men and boys and Grace Church hosted a Nowruz Festival to celebrate the beginning of spring in 2023. Air conditioners and washing machines have been installed in many Afghan homes. Many of us have donated household items and clothes to the Brookside Church Thrift Shop which provides dignity shopping and gnl help set up households for new arrivals.

**Children** – For several years the Outreach Committee sponsored a Breakfast with Santa. Beginning in 2006 Breakfast with Santa was replaced with a very successful Dr. Seuss Breakfast for children attending three inner city schools in Manchester. Like so many other things, this ended during the Covid pandemic. In 2023, instead of the Dr. Seuss Breakfast we did a Literacy Lunch for refugee children and their parents. A Mitten Tree and a Christmas Giving Tree has evolved from Adopt a Family to providing Christmas gifts and since 2020, Target gift cards to at least 100 needy children each year.

**Homelessness** – Several parishioners have been active volunteers at the 1269 Cafe and started a “Drop Your Drawers” campaign to solicit new underwear for the clients of the cafe. In the past parishioners have volunteered to serve meals at New Horizons and have participated in the annual Walk for Hunger which supports New Horizons. For several years we collected peanut butter for the Soup Kitchen.

**Other past activities**-- Laundry Love; Harvest Home Dinners which raised money for Kids Cafe, an Easter Seals camp, Heifer International, and the food pantry at St. Andrew’s Church; Souper Bowl of Caring; work with The Way Home to help with lead abatement, head lice treatment, and asthma control; a Prayer Walk in downtown Manchester; an Easter dinner for individuals and families fed by the shelter and food pantry.

Come to our meeting and learn more about the Grace Church Outreach program.  
**Nancy-Ann Feren, Committee Chair**



### The Grace Church Book Group

Book Group is continuing to meet at 10 AM on the third Tuesday of every month in the church library. All are welcome to attend.

April 16 The Best Strangers in the World by Ari Shapiro

May 21 The Stolen Lady by Laura Morelli

June 18 The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris



Kaydance Lassonde stuffed over three hundred colored eggs for the annual Grace Church Easter Egg Hunt. Her grandmother and Christian Ed Director, Linda, was then tasked with hiding them all over the building!



**St. Patrick's Day Dinner**



**Hungry Parishioners**



**Corn Beef Specialists.**



**Good Friends - Good Food**

**Farewell Shelley Kellerman**



**Our Most Excellent Altar Guild**  
**Moe Thomas, Linn Krikorian, Michael Duffy II, Barnaby Thomas**



**Lent V**



**Palm Sunday**





## Times Are Changing

By Dick Feren

I have been thinking about where Grace Church is and where it might be going, and a song by Bob Dylan came to mind: "The Times They Are A-Changing". The timing is interesting because the song was released almost exactly 60 years ago (Feb 10, 1964). It was also about a year earlier than that when Nancy-Ann and I started dating, so we have seen and experienced some changes during this time. Some of Dylan's words seem to send a very ominous message, but other words are more hopeful. I would like to focus on the more hopeful parts. My first example is from the first verse:

*Come gather 'round, people, wherever you roam  
And admit that the waters around you have grown  
And accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone  
If your time to you is worth saving  
And you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times, they are a-changin'*

My interpretation of this verse is that things are changing whether we want them to or not, and whether we are aware of it or not. The part that says "And you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone" I interpret as urging us to become active. If you would like Grace Church to grow and head in a certain and positive direction, then get involved.

The following, which is part of the fourth verse, also resonated with me.

*And don't criticize what you can't understand  
.... Your old road is rapidly agin'*

I interpreted this in two ways. The first is to not just criticize someone you don't agree with, but rather to try and understand where they are coming from. My second interpretation is that some of our old approaches might be out of touch with the present and need to be reviewed.

We don't yet know for sure what the future holds for Grace Church, but we need to be ready and prepare for change. One thing I would suggest is that we all pay attention to each other. We don't know exactly how things will change, but we know that they will change and that all should be involved.

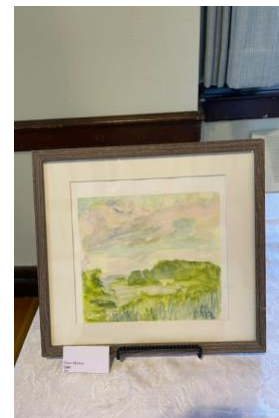


Mark Cleveland Director of Music

### Contest: Reader Challenge

How carefully do you read the newsletter?  
Embedded in one of the articles you will  
find the secret code: **gnlt**  
The first person to find the code and email  
the editor will receive a ten dollar gift card  
to Dunkin Donuts! Winners should wait  
one year to compete again.

# art THE show



## Hospitality

Please consider signing up for **Coffee Hour**. Hospitality members are available to anyone that would like to offer coffee hour together. A Sign up sheet is on the Kiosk.

## Sewing Group Reappears!



The Grace Church Sewing Group will reopen their gatherings on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Church Library. Formerly known as The Grace Church Knitting Group and expertly overseen by Karen West and Linda Chamberlain, the group was a popular gathering place for relaxed conversation and needlework of all kinds. We will provide coffee, tea and pastries. Bring your current project and plan to spend an enjoyable hour or two with friends.

For additional information, Contact Eileen Suckley 603-660-2424 or [Eralphs@Comcast.net](mailto:Eralphs@Comcast.net)



## Wednesday Adult Ed Bible Study

The Adult Ed Bible Study class continues to meet from 11:00 am to 12 noon in the Grace Church library. We are exploring Comparative Religion, via video and discussion, presented by Professor Charles Kimball, Presidential Professor and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Oklahoma. Please consider joining this active and questioning group of learners. For more information, contact **Lyn Marino** ([ciaomarino2@gmail.com](mailto:ciaomarino2@gmail.com)).

## Grace Church Choir

Our fine choir continues its rehearsal schedule, meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Whittemore Room (Choir Room) All adults and high school students who love to sing are encouraged to participate in this important ministry. Please call Mark Cleveland, Choir Director (603) 398-1957 or contact the Church Office at [gracechurchmanchesternh@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchmanchesternh@gmail.com) for further information

## **Vestry Minutes Meeting of 3-20-2024**

Present: Wardens Brumfield and McIntosh, Asst. Treasurer Tom Stevens, Clerk Eileen Suckley,  
Vestry: Val Anderson, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Deb Schuh, Gail Schuman, Chris Turner, Kurt  
Wicks

Absent: Treasurer James Higgins, Barnaby Thomas

Warden Brumfield opened with prayer. Reading of the Norms.

- A **motion** to approve the 2/21/2024 Vestry Minutes was made by Hank Gagnon and seconded by Carol Cote. The motion passed.
- A **motion** to re-elect Tom Stevens as Assistant Treasurer for another year was made by Warden McIntosh and seconded by Eileen Suckley. The motion passed.
- An **evote** on 2/28/24 to approve the Parochial Report was made by Teddi McIntosh, seconded by Eileen Suckley. The motion passed.
- A **motion** to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Deb Schuh and seconded by Val Anderson. The motion passed.

### **February financials**

We will be submitting a restatement of last year's figures. As Jim was completing the parish report which includes the Bishop's tax, he noted an error. Larry included the \$50K from the last endowment in Income. This should not be the case since we are starting a major capital project. This correction will yield a net savings of \$7500. As a result, we will show a modest profit for the year of \$7K rather than \$57K.

Larry also included in income, the appreciation from endowment for \$63,500. This amount needs to be backed out of income. We are a cash-based client and as such, do not record market changes. We have budgeted a monthly pledge income of \$17.5K every month. January pledge income was quite low but January and February combined put us at \$6.5K over budget (but about \$9K behind where we were last year at this time). The good news is that our expenses are substantially under budget. Fr. Ed will not start until April 1 so we will not have substantial clergy expense (we saved \$24K combined for January and February).

- A **motion** to accept the February financials was made by Meghann White and seconded by Val Anderson. The motion passed.
- A **motion** to approve Father Ed's Housing allowance - allowance to be \$32,000. Thus the result from our cash payment point of view after a positive vote will be Salary at \$68,000 and housing allowance at \$32,000 and set at \$7650 = \$107,650 as agreed was made by Hank Gagnon and seconded by Gail Schuman. The motion passed.
- A **motion** to revise the original 2023 financial report, directing the final distribution of income from the endowment to the Capital Improvement Fund for replacement of boilers was made by Val Anderson and seconded by Teddi McIntosh. The motion passed.

### **Property Committee**

Amy signed off on paperwork completed by Ken Rhodes and Steve Cornish that is required by the Health Department. Boiler update: This past weekend, Gary York spent considerable time working



in the Boiler Room. We burned through a transformer and a switch as well. Previous workers are no longer employed by company who did the initial installation. As a result, we had to reapply for service and a credit application was completed on 3.19. Gary and the electrician spent \$1000 on repairs and are continuing to work on the system. We are awaiting an estimate from Granite State Chimney. The new boilers have been ordered.

Garage: Milestone still on schedule for April or May. We will need to purchase some funding to close in Grace House. Rumor that building is being purchased for a Drug Rehab facility.

Extreme Epoxy Solutions, LLC: Tom donated his time for the kitchen floor installation. A thank you note was generated.

- A **motion** to establish a Building Capital Fund to which any person can donate for projects to be determined by the Vestry was made by Warden Brumfield and seconded by Val Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Hospitality**

April 7 will feature a combined reception for Father Ed arriving and Reverend Jamie leaving. Steven Cornish will lead the Hospitality Committee in this endeavor.

**Other issues:** Report on Music Programs from other churches compiled by Deb Schuh. Attached.

- A **motion** to adjourn was made by Carol Cote and seconded by Warden McIntosh. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Suckley  
Clerk of the Vestry

### **After Easter ...**

By the time you read this, all the candy filled Easter eggs will have been opened, the joyous anthems sung, the fading spring flowers planted or discarded. And yet, the turmoil swirling around us continues unabated – suffering, heartache and violence abound in every corner of the globe. What difference has our Easter made? What has changed? Sometimes the only thing we can change is within ourselves...

*“Now is the moment for which a lifetime of faith has prepared you. All of those years of prayer and study, all of the worship services, all of the time devoted to a community of faith: it all comes down to this, this sorrowful moment when life seems chaotic and the anarchy of fear haunts the thin borders of reason. Your faith has prepared you for this. It has given you the tools you need to respond, to proclaim justice while standing for peace. Long ago the Spirit called you to commit your life to faith. Now you know why. You are a source of strength for those who have lost hope. You are a voice of calm in the midst of chaos. You are a steady light in days of darkness. **The time has come to be what you believe.**” Steven Charleston*

## **Grace Episcopal Church**

106 Lowell Street

Manchester, NH. 03101

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gracechurchmanchesternh@gmail.com

www.gracechurchmanchester.org

### **Clergy**

The Reverend Edward M. Cardoza

The Reverend Allan Knight

### **Officers**

Amy Brumfield, Warden

Teddi McIntosh, Warden

Jim Higgins, Treasurer

Tom Stevens, Assistant Treasurer

Eileen Suckley, Clerk of the Vestry

### **Vestry at Large**

Valerie Anderson, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Gail Schuman,  
Deb Schuh, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner, Meghann White, Kurt Wicks

### **Staff**

Mark Cleveland, Director of Music

Ken Grinnell, Organist

Carter Beck, Organist

Mary Peterson, Parish Administrator

Lyn Marino, Lay Ministry Coordinator

Emery Freethey, Sexton

Ann Hewins, Grace House Manager

### **Newsletter**

Eileen Suckley

Eralphs@Comcast.net

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

**April 22**

