



## Grace Notes May 2024

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

Grace Episcopal Church  
106 Lowell Street  
Manchester, NH



Let me keep my distance always from those  
who think they have all the answers.  
Let me keep company always with those who say "Look!"  
And laugh with astonishment  
And bow their heads.

*Mary Oliver*



### **From the desk of Father Ed:**

As we liturgically progress toward the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost, I find myself moving between two themes: abandonment and growth. The initial two days after Christ's crucifixion surely must have been filled with abandonment, grief and trauma. The resurrection seems to have caused as much fear as it did comfort – Jesus had to repeat over and over again: "Do not be afraid...for it is I." (John 6:20) Just as followers of Jesus are getting use to the resurrected Christ, who walks through walls, bears wounds that can be touched and, even more oddly, possesses a hearty appetite despite having a ghost-like appearance, it becomes profoundly clear that he will be leaving them yet again! They want to know where he is going. They want him to stay. They want to understand what is happening and who is this spirit that the Risen Christ is promising to send. Without immediate answers, they spiral even deeper into their feelings and emotions.

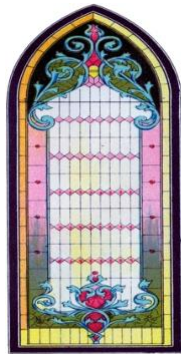
A couple of questions for us to consider: In what way does this sense of abandonment play out in our lives? Does the experience of abandonment serve any purpose? Here is my take, I can point to areas in my life when I felt particularly close to God and, conversely, moments where I felt entirely left behind or not seen. The greatest comfort to me when I have these particular 'dark nights of the soul' is the line from Matthew 28:20: "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." God indeed will not leave us orphaned. Perhaps, one of the chief purposes of abandonment is to lead us to these very consolations: God loves us. God is in relationship with us and we are called into relationship with God. God accompanies us whether we feel it or not. God is eternal and forever and is with us until the very end. In this moment at Grace Episcopal Church, when we are examining our past, living our present and dreaming of our future, are there ways in which you are experiencing abandonment or have experienced abandonment? Can the witness of the early followers of Jesus help us to find consolation and healing in our trauma, grief and hurt?

Turning now to the other theme: growth. I quoted Matthew 28:20 above. Let us look at verse 19: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." While it may make some of us uncomfortable to evangelize, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to remove or extinguish the obligation to go out from our parish church to bring the Good News to the people of God, especially in our immediate neighborhood.

I hope in the months to come that we, as a parish, become very comfortable with evangelization. As we will be hearing shortly in the season of Pentecost: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) This is the same Holy Spirit that we call down on each and every person in Baptism and in Confirmation. We are heirs of the Apostolic tradition and its teaching. The church is not instituted by Christ to be insular but to be global. As the image of a branch growing from the true vine, the church is alive, and, in its very essence, destined to grow!

A couple of questions for us to ponder: What reactions or feelings arise when you hear the word “evangelization?” Is there a difference between evangelization and proselytization? Here is my take: Evangelization is about going out to others and listening together for God. Proselytization is about going out into community convinced you have all the answers and that others need to listen to you. Our call, as Episcopalians, is to allow people to be, then belong and then come to belief. Many are surprised to hear that The Episcopal Church (TEC) is not a national church but a multinational denomination seated within the global Anglican Communion. The largest diocese of TEC is Haiti--the largest church growth areas are among Spanish and Creole speakers. The parish church should reflect the diversity of the community in which it is situated. It is clear, looking through decades of Grace’s parish feedback and surveys, that many of you have named that desire as one of the hopes for Grace. As Acts 2:3-4 lays out “Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” In this season of Pentecost, may we find ways to be with people in their contexts, in their languages and with their experiences. I believe, when we do this, people are seen and welcomed – and we grow. In what ways is Grace already doing this? How may the Holy Spirit be calling us to become a deeper place of welcome and belonging?





## MILESTONES

Happy Birthday to the following May birthday celebrants!

2	James Whittaker	5	Linn Krikorian
6	Lyn Marino	7	Jude Lassonde, Kelley Muir
9	Carter Beck	10	Tim Lassonde, Damian Lisembee Rilla Cartier
14	Dwight Simmons	15	Ruth Young
17	David Roy	18	Cindy Watts
23	Michael Duffy	24	Christopher Messier
30	Quinn Turner		

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**



### **Jim Lee: April Winner**

#### **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.



**Fr. Ed Cardoza, acclaimed photo journalist Robert Azzi, Reverend Jamie Hamilton**

### **A Franciscan Benediction**

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain rejections, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and  
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done;  
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.





## Church School Schedule

**May 5<sup>th</sup>.....**JULIE TURNER/BRIAN WHITE (Jesus Ascends to Heaven)

**May 19<sup>th</sup>.....** LINDA LASSONDE/ROB FOX (Come Holy Spirit)

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>.....** KELLEY MUIR/LISA ATKINSON (Paul Spreads the Good News)

### Sunday School update....

Now that we are into spring, I would like to report that our children's Sunday School program has been going well. We currently have 11 children between the ages of 7 and 12 attending our program every other Sunday. The program is open to children entering kindergarten in the fall through age 12. Some of our tweens will be aging "up" next year and we hope to offer a separate program for our older youth and teens in the fall. Our last formal day of Sunday School will be June 2nd, 2024.

Looking ahead, I would like to hear from anyone interested in being a teacher or assistant teacher starting in September. Our lesson plans are drawn from the "Weaving God's Promises" curriculum that include discussion, fun activities and crafts revolving around an Old or New Testament story. Teachers are always paired with another teacher or assistant, and rotate assigned Sundays every 4-6 weeks throughout the fall and spring. Teens are welcome to

volunteer to help the younger students with our craft activities that take place during our lessons.

Background checks are completed through the NH Diocese and Safe Church Training must be completed on line. All materials are supplied for class sessions and A-V equipment is also available in the classroom if desired for use to augment a lesson. Adults of all ages are encouraged to volunteer with our program. Our teachers will attest that they have been spiritually enriched and taught to view our faith in new ways by our bright, talented, and motivated younger church members. I would like to personally thank our current teachers; Lisa Atkinson, Lauren Cline, Rob Fox, Kelley Muir, Julie Turner, Brian & Meghann White for their dedication and commitment to our program this past year. I would also like to thank Kaydance Lassonde, Quinn Turner, and Clare White for being our teen volunteers. If you would be interested in being a part of our teaching crew, please contact me at [lclwhnp@gmail.com](mailto:lclwhnp@gmail.com) or speak to me in person on any upcoming Sunday.

**Linda Lassonde**

(Sunday School teacher and blessed grandmother of 4 of our youngest members)

### **Moments of parish life**





Springtime  
by *Bruce Damato*

Springtime, flowers start to bloom  
Life starts anew  
Let go of alienation and doom  
Enjoy some happiness, get over gloom.

### TULIPS AND WINDMILLS

A couple of months ago, I realized that I had never been to The Netherlands. I'm Dutch, so spending time in the homeland of my ancestors seemed like a good way to spend my 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

I booked a river cruise with Viking on one of their long boats. We began in Amsterdam, sailing along several rivers, and ending back in Amsterdam. We prefer Viking because the boats are small, giving ample opportunity to get to know staff and other passengers. On our first day we went on a canal cruise, where we saw the homes of both working people and the well-to-do. The more steps to the front door of the wealthy homes, the more money the family has.

Hundreds of thousands of bicycles have the right of way in every village, city, and town; they travel very fast, and do not stop for pedestrians. Allan spent time in the Zuiderzee Museum, which offered a glimpse into life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. I opted to visit a tulip farm and a nearby windmill. The Kinderdijk Windmills visit would have been better had it not been for the biting wind and freezing rain. We did get to see the inside of a windmill, where the family lived in tiny rooms, and short beds. We were told that the family members sleep sitting up.

We spent my birthday walking around the medieval town of Middelburg. It's a beautiful town, with cobblestones and well-preserved buildings. Before there were street names and house numbers, homes were identified by a carving or picture on the front outside wall, depicting the profession or hobby of the homeowner. One of the most beautiful sights we were treated to were the 79 acres of tulips in the Keukenhof Gardens. Every possible color was represented, and I took pictures of all of them.

We did spend one day in Antwerp, Belgium. Most memorable of that visit was The Cathedral of Our Lady. A stunning example of Gothic architecture, it dominates Antwerp's Old Town. Construction began in 1352, and was completed 169 years later.



Our time in The Netherlands was well worth it. Years ago, we visited Allan's roots in Cornwall, England; now it was my turn.

*Reverend Jane W Van Zandt +*



### **Hospitality Committee**

The Hospitality Committee met recently to plan for activities and celebrations in the coming year. A delicious barbeque is tentatively planned for June. Stay tuned for more details! Please consider signing up for **Coffee Hour**. Hospitality members are available to anyone who would like to offer coffee hour together. A Sign up sheet is on the Kiosk.

### **Sewing Group**

The Grace Church Sewing Group has reconvened and meets on the fourth Thursday of each month (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) at 10 am in the Church Library. This is a gathering place for relaxed conversation and needlework of all kinds. Coffee, tea and a light snack are provided. Please join us! 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 at [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.

## 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.

May 21 The Stolen Lady by Laura Morelli  
June 18 The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

We are currently compiling suggestions for our next book list. If you have a suggestion for an absorbing book, fiction or nonfiction, please email Nancy Ann Feren ([nferen@comcast.net](mailto:nferen@comcast.net)) by May19th.

### 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.

### **No Stewardship Update**

### **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

**Grace Episcopal Church**

106 Lowell Street  
Manchester, NH. 03101  
Tel (603) 622-9813  
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**  
**May 22**