



Grace Notes July & August 2021

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





Illustration by Andrew Freshour

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Rector's Reflection

Returning to Communal Worship

The Barna Group, an organization that researches cultural and religious trends, recently published an article on their website titled, “What Churchgoers Missed Most About In-Person Services.” (You can read it and view statistical data gathered by Barna here: <https://www.barna.com/research/churchgoers-miss-services/>) When churchgoers were asked what they specifically missed the most about in person church experiences not available to them during the pandemic, many answers were given – volunteering, study groups, live music, the opportunity to connect with like-minded people. But the two top answers people gave were about being fed. Twenty-four percent of those asked missed receiving the Eucharist. While twenty-three percent, more than anything, missed coffee hour, that time when all are given the chance to socialize and connect with others. Only a one percent difference between being fed during worship and being fed after worship!



This is the church. This is the steeple. Open the door and see all the people. While many of us have seen our fellow church people on Zoom (in a Hollywood Squares format), enjoyed putting names to faces, we all will agree that God created us to be, not isolated and alone, but present, physically with one another. Evidence, God himself coming to earth in the form of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to say that Bishop +Rob officially sent a letter just last week to his clergy giving us his blessing to encourage our parish families to return to in-person worship. While not everyone is comfortable returning to our nave at this time (which is perfectly fine), we will welcome anyone who wishes to return to worship in our beautiful nave on Sunday, July 4th at 9:30 AM. We will also have a Zoom link sent a few days prior to this date, and in the weeks to follow, that will allow those at home to continue to “tune in” to see and be a part of our in-person worship from home.

Recognize that we will be moving back to our life as a church family with baby steps. We will not jump back into all parish activities and liturgical practices at once. As we begin worship again, we will have fewer readings in the service. We will ask you, for now, to print your bulletin at home and bring it with you to church. We will celebrate the Eucharist together and distribute bread yet ask that people drink wine from individual cups. We will ask people to wave at each other during the peace and save their hugs for outside time after church. We will sing in

unison, but while we sing we request that everyone who wishes to do so wear a mask. Finally, our coffee hours will be outside, hosted by one person, and very simple – cold drinks and one or two snacks.

While the experience of gathering together will look different (at least for now) from our pre-pandemic worship, let us lift up attitudes of gratitude, thankful that finally, after so much time apart, we will finally embrace the gift of being together. This is truly a sacred gift, as scripture explains, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

I am and will continue to be grateful for the incredible patience, strength, and resilience the members of this parish have shown over the past year and a half. You have continued to call, text, e-mail, write, and even meet up with some parish family members. You have regularly sent in your pledges and supported the work and staff of our church. You have held fast to hope and a belief that God continues to be with us and that, in time, this pandemic, too, shall pass.

Joy, joy, joy for all those who have been in our Zoom room and for those who will continue to join us in that way. Joy, joy, joy for all those who will come in person to pray collectively on July 4th.

Blessings and love,
Marjorie +

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!

Saturday June 19th was a day for celebration for many people.

It was the first time Juneteenth was acknowledged nationally. Privileged White people like me are finally getting a glimpse of history as it really was, not as we were taught in school. Having participated in Sacred Ground, the National Episcopal Church’s curriculum formulated to help us come to terms with our own racism, I have come to realize how well we have ignored our complicity in perpetuating systemic racism. To say it doesn’t exist is to continue to keep our heads buried in the sand. I recommend Sacred Ground. The ten weeks of study and sharing will be hard work, but it is well worth the time and effort.



June 19th also saw an estimated 3,000 of us gathered by the river to celebrate Manchester’s Pride Festival. Children, young people, middle-aged, and older folks enjoyed a beautiful afternoon together. Participants could be who

they truly are, without fear of being harmed. We look forward to many more of these festive gatherings.

I feel so blessed to have so many gay, lesbian, transgender, and non-binary friends and family members in my life. It's amazing how rich our lives can be, when we open our hearts and minds.

Jane W Van Zandt+

Manchester Pride 2021



We are grateful that our parish family celebrates that love is love is love. Many parishioners (and former parishioners!) attended Manchester Pride this year including: the Reverends Jane Van Zandt, Allan Knight, and Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Fiona Stagnaro, Moe and Barnaby Thomas, Ron Paquin and Andre Laurion, Steven and Paul Botana-Gumbs, and Kelley, Davan, and Ian Muir.

Drive-By Eucharist

We are grateful for our amazing parish volunteers who continue to encourage and support us at our Drive-By Eucharists. Special thanks to Hank and Greg Gagnon, Christophter Messier, The Reverends Michael Andres, Jane Van Zandt, Allan Knight, and our rector who served at our Sunday, June 13th event.



Getting To Know You : Shelley Kesselman

Part One

This month our rector interviewed parishioner Shelley Kesselman, who has been a visible and faithful presence at our parish and has much to teach us about our faith through her own spiritual journey and wonderful, thoughtful responses.



How long have you been an Episcopalian?

I discovered the Episcopal Church at age 19, when I attended an Epiphany Mass with the young gentleman I was dating at the time. Five minutes in, I knew I was home. The rich liturgy with its message of “God in us made manifest” resonated on a deep, authentic level, calling me to lean into that with everything I had. Decades later, I am still engaged and challenged by that message. So I am what happens when you invite a friend to church! (I sometimes wonder if Prince Formerly Charming ever did that again knowing how my spiritual journey has unfolded as a result of that fateful invitation!)

We know that you are not a NH native. Where did you live before you moved here, and what church did you attend? How did you serve as a leader in that parish?

(Chuckling.) Not a simple answer to that! I was born in the Midwest, but married a software engineer who heard the siren call of Silicon Valley, so I moved to California in my 20's. The Bay Area became home, so I am a California girl at heart if not by birth. My husband was transferred to New England in 2006. I settled in at Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua and spent several happy years there. We were living in Massachusetts then, so when family circumstances called for a move to New Hampshire, I realized that I missed doing ministry in the community where I was living, and that I would have that opportunity in Manchester. I therefore said a grateful "Amen" to my time at Good Shepherd and sought new opportunities for living into God's call in Manchester with my particular skill set of gifts. It was a good decision. I now feel happily settled at Grace Church, where I'm excited about whatever lies ahead as we reopen and respond to post-pandemic life in what is now my other adopted hometown, and around our diocese.

As for parish service, you name it and I have probably done it! I have served as a chorister, lector, intercessor, and LEM at virtually every parish I have been part of. I served as Director of Christian Education for three years at St. Mark's in Santa Clara. I also served as Subdeacon, Lay Associate, and Verger at Trinity Cathedral in San Jose, where I also served on Vestry, helped organize and teach Vacation Bible School, and assisted with the Latino congregation whom the cathedral hosted. During my California years, I also served as Lay Chaplain at San Jose State University where I did virtually everything except sacramental ministry. I conducted retreats, planned and led worship, taught, preached, and provided pastoral care for students, faculty, and staff regardless of their religious affiliation or spiritual orientation. At Good Shepherd, I helped with Stewardship, framing it as a way of living into our faith, not just fund-raising. I began as a team member, and soon became Team Chair. I also stepped in to help shepherd the Junior Choir through a difficult semester as Interim Director after the sudden death of their much beloved director. In seeking my niche for service, what I found was a holistic appreciation of how parish life works, and how one aspect operates in the context of all the others. It has been a pleasant surprise.

What made you decide to attend seminary? Where did you go? What was your favorite part of that experience?

Well, the short answer to why is "the Holy Spirit," but of course it is more complicated than that! Long story short, I was all set to begin the ordination process in San Jose, when Sun Microsystems transferred my husband to the New England office. We didn't think this would be permanent, and my home diocese was between bishops, so my then rector thought that it would be a good idea for me to start seminary, use it as a context for unofficial discernment, and have that piece done by the time a new bishop was seated. I started at Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge, thinking I would do my Anglican Studies work there, then transfer to Harvard Divinity School, but after a semester at

EDS, I realized that whatever order of ministry I would end up in, EDS would do the better job of preparing me for the work that needed to be done in a rapidly changing church in a post-Christian world. More importantly, I encountered Jesus on the EDS campus in ways I never had before, and I know him more intimately, and love him more deeply as a result. I was stretched spiritually, intellectually, liturgically, and just about any other way you could name. I loved it all (OK, there were a few assignments that were painful!) but I was in my deepest joy when I was crafting liturgy, writing homilies, and engaging in deep conversations with others who were as jazzed about Jesus, theology, and new ways of doing and being Church as I was.

We hear your bird chirp and talk during Zoom services. Tell us about him/her, and do you have any other pets?

That would be birds, as we have a whole flock! Right now, we have two cockatiels, a parakeet, and a military macaw. We also have two cats and a little betta fish, which makes for some interesting dynamics within the Kesselman menagerie, but they are all absolutely worth having! Sunny, our yellow cockatiel is the senior member of the flock. I got him as a baby almost 20 years ago - in fact, he picked me at the store, not the other way around! Sunny drove out from California with me a few years later, charming the socks off agricultural inspectors and toll takers all across the continent. He was diagnosed with diabetes before his first birthday, so it is something of a miracle that he will turn 20 this September. Andy, our grey cockatiel came to us while I was recovering from my broken ankle in 2019. His first mama was a friend of Sandi Albom and Ann Hewins, who decided that I would be the perfect person to adopt this much loved and soon to be orphaned birdie. They know me well, and when Ann asked me if I could take him, I gladly said yes. Our parakeet, Skye, is a frequent contributor to our liturgy with her cheerful chirps and trills. Pickles, the macaw is not, and this is by my very intentional design, as he would overpower anybody and everybody in the Zoom room! (I am fairly certain that everyone on the North End of Manchester knows that we have a macaw!) The cats, Calista and Holly, have made periodic cameo appearances at Grace's virtual gatherings, but if they can't have all my attention, they quickly lose interest and amble off in search of other amusement.

What are your hobbies?

I have loved music ever since I was a very little girl, so that's a big part of my recreational life. I sing with the Concord Chorale and I also serve as their House Manager. This makes for very busy concert days, but I love being able to welcome the audience, support the usher team that helps make sure the audience members' experience is fabulous from beginning to end, and also be a part of making the music that they came to hear. I see their excitement as they arrive as well as the delighted faces during the concert, and I get to hear the appreciation as they leave. I also write, collect art

glass (carnival and Venetian mostly), do various forms of needlework, and enjoy water aerobics.

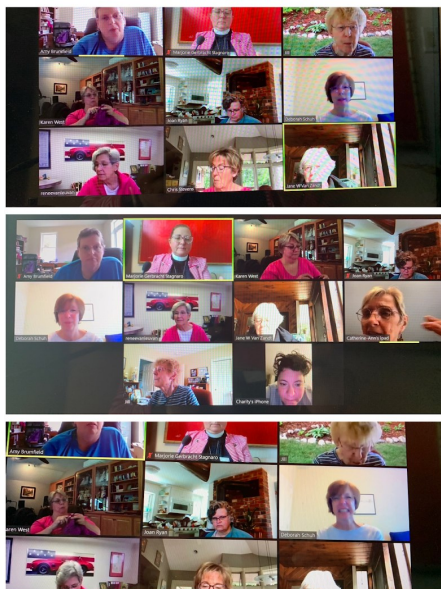
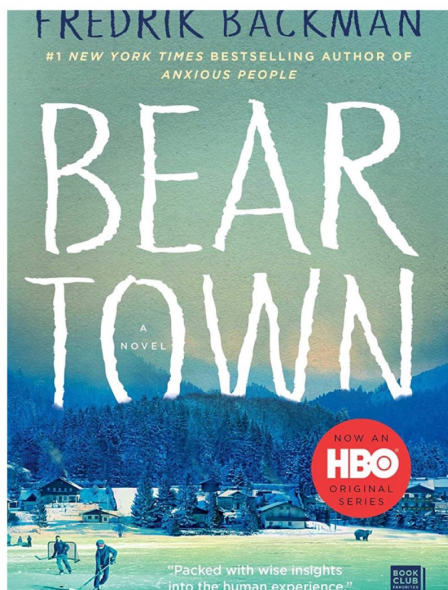
Stay tuned for Part II in September's newsletter!

Grace Church Book Group Update

This past month our parish book group gathering was smaller in number than usual as several members were away on trips. All those who were unable to attend, though, made sure to e-mail our larger group and tell us how much they enjoyed our June GEC book group selection: *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* written by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch. This book was hand picked by our parish's Senior Warden and amazing Zoom director, Dr. Amy Brumfield. Amy shared with us at the meeting how she learned about the book on Amazon and was intrigued by the subject matter since she herself had done medical training in Africa. In this compelling dual memoir, letters written by two tweens: Caitlin (an American teenager who lives in Pennsylvania) and Martin (an impoverished boy who lives in Zimbabwe) are shared and show the power of the written word through a pen pal, long-distance exchange. Our group spoke at length about how inspired we were by the fact that Caitlin, and subsequently her mother and father, supported Martin not just emotionally, but financially as well.

Marjorie Facebook messaged back and forth several times with one of the authors, Caitlin Alifirenka. Caitlin shared good news with our group (and we were all pleased to hear this!) that Martin now lives and works in New York City as an African Investor, as well as running a non-profit organization he helped begin called the New Africa Foundation. Caitlin is married and lives in Northern Pennsylvania, but closer to New Jersey so that she and her family are closer to New York City which allows them to visit with Martin on a regular basis. Caitlin works as a trauma nurse and has two daughters, Mila and Dasha. Both Caitlin and Martin do book talks, but mainly and mostly at schools around the US and Canada, as well as virtual visits internationally (since this book is categorized as a Young Adult book).

Our next book gathering will take place on Zoom on Tuesday, July 20th at 12 noon. The book we will be discussing is *Beartown* by Swedish author Fredrik Backman. This is the third book written by this author that our parish book group has read and was recommended as a great discussion book by Marjorie's sister, who is a full time librarian. The book was so successful that the author even wrote a sequel (*Us Against You*) and *Beartown* was even made into a television series available for viewing on HBO. At first glance the book seems to be all about hockey, but dive deep



and you will uncover a wonderfully rendered story about community, culture, character, entitlement, family, loyalty, belonging, and courage.

Summer is a great time to read, so consider joining us for our July meeting and future gatherings. Here is our list of scheduled books that will give you lots of reading choices when you are at the beach, on a plane, or simply relaxing at home.

For 2021

August - *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly

September - *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate

October - *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann

November - *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

December - *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand

For 2022

January - *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson

February - *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

March - *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

April - *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

May - *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan

June - *CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson

July - *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah

August - *A Good Apology: Four Steps to Make Things Right* by Molly Howes, Ph. D.

Garden Prayer and Outdoor Care Thank You

We are grateful for all those who continue to help keep our outside courtyard and gardens neat and tidy. Special thanks to Mark Anderson, David Roy, Ken Grinnell, and Emery Freethey who had to dispose of a large, concrete urn that formerly housed flowers on our parish campus that was smashed by someone unknown late one afternoon. Mark, David, Ken, and Emery cleaned up and threw out the pieces of the old urn and then helped relocate another urn that was on the Pine Street side of our campus to replace the smashed urn.

Thank you to Ann Hewins, Ken Grinnell, and Emery Freethey who have spent significant time this summer making sure trash found in our courtyard is disposed of and kudos to Ann ORourke and Emery Freethey who make sure our parish gardens are well tended. Huge praise and blessings to the amazing Tommy Suckley, who with the assistance of his parents Eileen and Tom Suckley makes sure our parish lawns are always mowed on a regular basis.



A Prayer For the Garden by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller:

Dear God, the wind moves through the grass. The birds welcome me with their songs. The sun kisses my head and the garden waits in anticipation. Before the first seed is planted, before the water drenches the soil, before the sprouts burst through the ground, before flowers and

fruit, the garden waits in anticipation. Your creation, Lord, is a gift. Help me to honor this earth and the animals and creatures that make their home here. Help me to see your presence in the tiniest seed. Help me to give thanks for your bounty with every turning of soil. Help me to wait and wonder for the new life that is to come. Teach me patience, Lord, as the sun and the water nourish the ground, as the roots take hold in the darkness. And as the garden grows, may my heart grow too: in newness and hope, in beauty and joy, in praise and glory to you. AMEN

Too Big, or Not Too Big? Interesting Question.

I tend to build fires that are just big enough for what I need. I don't like to waste wood. I think I got that perspective from my father who always saved scraps of materials left over from building something. He used to say "Use it up; wear it out; make it do, or do without." When our children, and later our grandchildren, were camping with us, I would present them with the challenge to light the fire and get it going with just a single match. That is still my goal.



Most of my fires are for cooking a meal. I take care to make sure it is hot enough but not too hot, and that it is steady for as long as needed. I will tweak the fire by moving and/or adding wood pieces to try and keep it going at a relatively constant rate. I really like cooking over a fire. It feels like another way to get closer to nature.

Another use for a fire is for us to sit around it for a while before going to bed. We like to watch the colors and shapes of the flames and red coals. We have watched groups of people sitting near very large fires. For a long time I assumed that they were just wasting wood. More recently, I re-thought that perspective and realized that sometimes a large fire can feel celebratory. We have seen this during National Park Ranger talks at different sites. For Nancy-Ann and me, a large fire is too hot. However, for a larger group, the people are all further away, so it does not feel as hot. Also, a larger fire divided by a larger number of people brings the amount of wood per person to about the same as when I do it for us.

Another fire benefit I learned about was related to end-of-the-day sessions for prospectors in Alaska during the "49-ers" gold rush. When they were sitting around a fire at the end of the day, mosquitoes would start to feast on them. The prospectors found that if they took a spoonful of dynamite and tossed it into the fire, it would make a small explosion, and the shock wave would get rid of the mosquitoes for a large region around the fire, and they

would be bug-free for about 20 minutes. When the mosquitoes came back, they would throw in another bit of dynamite.

The more I thought about it, the more variety I could see for how fires could be used. Sometimes small is better, and sometimes large is better. Sometimes it's used for cooking, and sometimes it is used for a social gathering. These variations reminded me that there is often more than one way to see something.

To close this article, I'll refer back to a small fire. At the close of the day, I like seeing how long I can keep a small fire going. I do it until we run out of wood, or until it is time to go to bed. I like watching the shapes of the flames and the coals as they keep changing during the burning. The fire gradually fades and it goes to sleep as it gets close to the time for us to do the same.

Dick Feren

Steeple Repair Update

Thanks be to God that the weather in Manchester has allowed our amazing steeple jack from American Steeple to steadily replace missing slate and complete the necessary, pointing repair on our beautiful parish steeple. Work will soon begin on replacing and repairing rotted wood in the louvre areas that are damaged. Special thanks to parishioner Ken Rhodes who is keeping this important property project on track!



June Hybrid Worship

We are grateful for all those who participated in our June hybrid worship filming that was shared virtually during our Sunday, June 13th Zoom worship: Ken Grinnell, Carter Beck, Mark Cleveland, Don and Cheryl Walker, Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, and Moe Egan Thomas. We are ever grateful for our music team, which also includes Lyn Marino, our Zoom deacon and Senior Warden Amy Brumfield, and our parish administrator Marlene Thompson for all their innovative, hard work in managing volunteers, digital bulletins, and Zoom choreography.



Thank You from CHAMPS

Our rector received a wonderfully thoughtful thank you note from the leadership of CHAMPS (Central High Association of Music Parents) on June 3rd, 2021. She wanted to share the message with all of you:

Reverend Gerbracht-Stagnaro,

On behalf of the Central High School music students, thank you so much for your generous gift to our cause. We need not tell you that it has been a difficult year. Just knowing that our community cares about the importance of music in our public schools is an incredible reward. Be assured that your gift will go a long way to helping keep music alive and flourishing at Central High School. Thanks again!

My best,
John Bisson—CHAMPS Treasurer

Take note, our rector made an additional \$500 donation (using money gifted to



our parish from our diocesan "Our Kids" program) to increase our total donation to CHAMPS to \$3,323.

Outreach should not be "out of reach," but an experience of "reaching out." Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing, reaching out reality. Because of your generosity Manchester young high school students will make amazing music that lifts the souls of others.

Thank You from Marlene

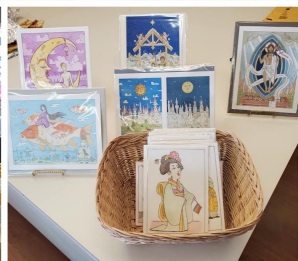
Dear Grace Church family,

Thank you to everyone who sent notes, cards, thoughts and prayers to me during my painful recuperation from a compression fracture of my spine. It has been a painful time made more bearable with your kind gestures.

Love,
Marlene

Congratulations to Andrew Freshour

Congratulations to parishioner Andrew Freshour who shared his God given artistic skills at an afternoon art showing and reception at the Framers Market (located at 1301 Elm Street in Manchester) on Saturday, June 19th. Special thanks to the numerous Grace Church parishioners who attended the event to support and celebrate Andrew's talent including: Moe and Barnaby Thomas, Ken and Dave Kjellander, Ron Paquin and Andre Laurion, Kersten Matera, Dwight Simmons, Marcus Forand, Michael Duffy, Stephen Cornish, Jane Van Zandt, and Allan Knight.



Congratulations to Elizabeth Cleveland

Congratulations to Elizabeth Cleveland, daughter of Mark and Lisa Cleveland, who just graduated from Kenyon College at the start of this summer. We celebrate and give thanks for Elizabeth, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, magna cum laude. She hopes to pursue a career in publishing.



Congratulations Middle School Graduates

Congratulations to the following middle school graduates from our parish family: Noah Turner, who graduated from Hillside Middle School in Manchester and will be moving on to Central High School, Rachel Otto, who graduated from Southside Middle School in Manchester and will be attending Manchester Memorial High School, and Fiona Stagnaro, who graduated from David Cawley Middle School in Hooksett and will be attending Pinkerton High School.



If we missed honoring your graduate in this issue of our parish newsletter, please let us know by sending either our newsletter editor or our rector a picture of your graduate and sharing with us your graduate's future plans.

Congratulations to Mannix Muir

Congratulations to Mannix Muir who participated in the YMCA Leaders Group this year in Manchester and received the "Leader of the Year" Award.



Zachary Stagnaro at the Palace Theatre

Congratulations to Zachary Stagnaro, who after practicing regularly on Zoom for eight months (the longest production process the Palace Youth Theatre has ever had) performed the lead role of James in the musical *James and the Giant Peach*. Special thanks to the Reverends Allan Knight and Jane Van Zandt for attending the closing night performance to support Zach.

Zach will be performing at the Palace Theatre in *Night of 1000 Stars* on Tuesday, June 30th at 7 PM; *Frozen, Jr.* on Friday, August 6th at 7 PM and Saturday, August 7th at 11 am; and in *Willie Wonka, Jr.* on Friday, August 27th at 7 PM and Saturday, August 28th at 11 AM.



Congratulations to Kaydance Lassonde

Congratulations to Kaydance Lassonde, granddaughter of parishioners Linda and Timothy Lassonde, who just participated in her annual dance recital at Alicia's School of Dance in Loudon. Kay has been dancing for six years and it is her passion. Kay is looking forward to joining our parish acolyte team this coming fall.



Congratulations Sam Anderson

Congratulations to Sam Anderson, son of Christine and Mark Anderson, who graduated from New York University (NYU!) from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study with a degree in sustainable design. Sam loves New York City, where he continues to live. He plans to apply to graduate school later this year and hopes to earn a Master's degree in Public Health / Environmental Studies.



Talia Barnoy Congrats

Congratulations to Talia Barnoy (daughter of Lynda and Haim Barnoy) and her horse Atha who recently participated in the NEFHC Classic Horse Show in Loudon, New Hampshire. Talia and Atha are looking forward to being a part of the Seacoast Morgan Horse show this July in Deerfield, New Hampshire and we wish them much success.



A Free Opportunity To Listen, Watch, and Engage With On Being's Host, Krista Tippet

In their work with the "On Being" show and the Civil Conversations & Social Healing project, Krista Tippet and Lucas Johnson have engaged religious people and spiritual leaders as well as teachers, neuroscientist, and other thought leaders in explorations of wisdom that help us understand and engage each other as human beings across our differences.

All are welcome to join a webinar conversation titled, "Seeking Wisdom and Social Healing in a Time of Division," that is being sponsored by the National Institute for Civil Discourse and the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. This thoughtful discourse between two savvy, sacred colleagues will take place on Wednesday, July 7th, 2021 from 7 to 8:30 PM.

Krista and Lucas will share some of the insights they have gleaned as a result of listening to and talking with many different people through the years. In particular, they will discuss how this wisdom can be put into action and why it is so important to the different types of healing that we need in our country at this time. All that register will be welcome to submit questions and a Zoom link will be sent to those who do register the day before the event.



You can register to receive an invite to this webinar using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seeking-wisdom-and-social-healing-in-a-time-of-division-tickets-159034042101>

Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following July & August birthday celebrants

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.

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

August	
3 Tom Suckley III	22 Stephen Cornish
6 Nicole Otto	25 Sebastian Cline
7 Ken Wyatt	29 Micah Brumfield
9 Katie Otto	Dick Feren
10 Mary Baron	Nancy Johnson
12 Lauren Cline	Andre Laurion
13 Linda Heath	30 Jane Charlesworth
14 Barbie Fox	
19 Ernie Marino	

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

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Present: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Hank

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

Excused Absences: David Roy

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Rev. Marjorie opened the meeting at 7:03 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 Gail S, seconded by Hank, and was carried. The reports included are Clerk's Report (April, 2021), Rector's Report (April/May 2021), Planning and Finance Reports (May, 2021), and the Property Report (May, 2021), Endowment Meeting Report (May 2021), Grant Committee (May 2021), Music and Worship(May 13,2021).

Gail A. presented the April financial highlights as follows:

- Pledge receipts are \$3.4K below budget however significant pledge pre-payments were received in January and February but YTD pledges are favorable to budget.
- Diocesan Fair Share – Beginning in April through the end of the year, the new charge will be \$5,007/month vs. the \$5,205/month budgeted.
- Comcast charge has increased by \$65. (\$284/month vs \$219 budgeted)
- \$The CHAMPS project wrapped up with \$2.8K through April end; the funds were remitted to CHAMPS.
- The \$3.0K grant from the Diocese for the WiFi project was received in April.
- Operating Fund cash balance of \$122.8K remains positive.
- Our application for forgiveness for the ppp loan was submitted to Citizens Bank on 4/30/2021. Citizens Bank completed their review on 5/3/2021 and passed our application along to the SBA, which has 90 days to respond to Citizens regarding our application.

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

The audit will be conducted by Sylvia Petro of Plodzik and Sanderson on June 15th-17th. She has contacted Gail, who will oversee the audit, with a few

requests; Gail has given her access to our QuickBooks, has sent out confirmations to allow her to get bank balances, and has created a spreadsheet to show where the funds to each of the endowment funds came from.

The Vestry discussed potential opening dates for in person church services. It was decided that we would continue with the ZOOM version through the summer. The church would open on September 12th with two services; one service would continue as ZOOM and one service would be in church in person. A Reopening Committee (Ken and Dave Kjellander, Christopher Messier, and Rev. Marjorie) will decide on the protocols of reopening. Currently Gary York is working to secure a consultant to look at our sanctuary to see if there is an affordable option for technology installation to support a hybrid interactive church format which could be implemented instead of ZOOM. Rev. Marjorie will send out a notice to the parishioners telling them of the reopening date. The Vestry approved to allow the Wedding on September 11th to take place.

Meghann discussed the 3 grant proposals that were submitted in 2021. They are the International Institute of New England, Manchester Community Music School, and Girls at Work. She discussed the importance of being able to directly impact our local community and children in particular. For the Girls at Work and MCMS applications it was clear how funding would be used, and these would directly impact children in our local community, aligning well with our core mission for outreach. There were questions for the IINE application if we could specify how the money would be allocated. There was concern over how much of the funding would directly impact refugees in need of help versus overhead costs. Meghann will contact IINE to see if they would be able to accept a restricted use grant. The decisions will be made next month.

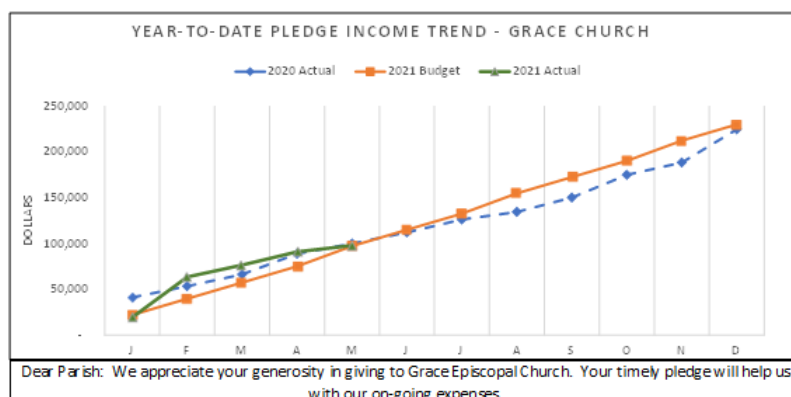
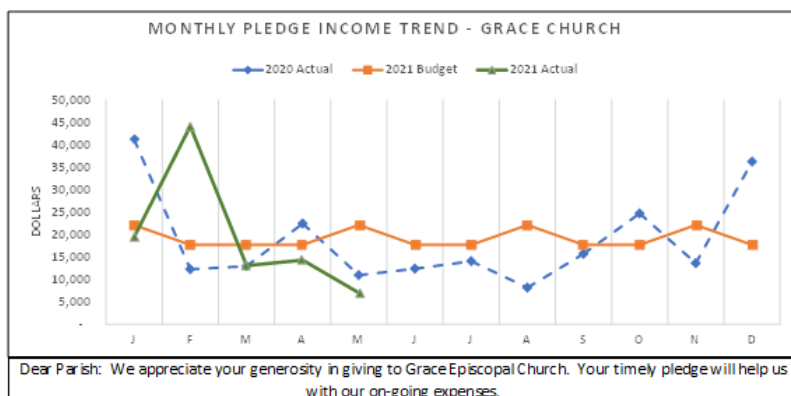
To clarify the Outreach Committee would consider IINE for a donation if they did not receive a grant.

The Steeple project is ongoing.

The Kitchen Committee will meet with Gary York on Sunday, May 23rd at the church to go over our plan making sure that health code requirements and mechanical needs are addressed, and to take measurements.

The meeting was concluded at 8:50PM. The next Vestry meeting is June 16th.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk



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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector
The Reverend Mike Andres, Deacon

Vestry

Amy Brumfield, Warden
Christopher Messier, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Gail Austin, Treasurer
David Roy, Assistant 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

Newsletter

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Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines

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