

A MESSENGER OF GRACE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



November 2022

Senior Warden's Update

Rector Search. We are almost done. First, I want to give my thanks to the entire transition team: Beth Paskowski, the chair and team members Verne Becker, Roy Kepler, Valerie Matthews, Emily Nevill, Dillon Nittoli, Edward Van Sadlers, Claudia Uccellani, Liz Johnson Weber, and Margie Winslow, for the many hours that they have put in over the last year. We all owe them all our thanks and appreciation. The vestry was provided the names of two candidates for consideration two weeks ago, and we have conducted in person interviews with both. We will be meeting again in the next week to reflect and reach a unanimous decision on who we will call to be the next rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Following our decision, we will advise the bishop and assuming his assent, we will inform our choice and negotiate a contract. I hope that we will complete this process by the middle of November, and I will be able to inform the congregation. We expect that our new rector will join us in early January. I ask that you keep the vestry and our candidates in your prayers as we complete this process.

Another gift from Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati. We received a letter from The Very Rev. Owen C. Thompson two weeks ago and enclosed was a check in the amount of \$40,000 from his cathedral. This latest gift comes on top of two previous gifts of \$10,000 each that we received in the last year. Fr. Owen and Christ Church Cathedral have been very supportive, and we are grateful that he continues to keep Grace in his prayers and thoughts.

Brief overview of Grace Finances. As we approach the end of the year, the standing committee on finance and vestry are keeping a close eye on Grace's financial status. The double impact of COVID on all of us and being in a transition period between rectors has had an effect, but we are doing okay.

Our general financial position is stable. Some expenditures are exceeding what we budgeted for, but other expenditures are substantially below what we

budgeted for. The bottom line on expenditures is that as of the end of September we have expended \$7,500 less than we had budgeted – we hope that continues. In terms of income, our pledge income is below what we budgeted for and that is a matter of concern. We have been fortunate that other sources of income – i.e., facility rental – the HBO project brought in \$25,000 and gifts other than pledge – i.e., Fr. Owen's and a few other gifts have helped considerably to make up the shortfall in pledge income. We will watch as the year nears an end.

A budget committee has been formed and will begin the process of preparing the budget for 2023 in the next few weeks. The stewardship campaign is ongoing, and a key component will be who are new rector is and the need to factor that person's compensation into the budget. We will know more by the start of December.

Advent Party. Due to COVID Grace has not had an Advent party for several years. Program Council (another group that hasn't met for several years) met and has set December 4 - following the 4:00pm service of choral evensong - as the date for this year's Advent party. If you are interested in assisting with this event, please contact me at jfmcdwll@hotmail.com

Our nominating committee has formed and will begin its work soon. They will be tasked with identifying parishioners for positions on the vestry (3 3-year terms), delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention as well as non-vestry members of next year's nominating committee. Stewardship is not just about treasure – it is also about time and talent – to be a thriving parish, your time and talents are as important if not more so.

If you have questions about any of these items or any other topic related to Grace, feel free to talk to me. If you don't know who I am – look for the tall guy

wearing glasses. I try to be at all three services on Sundays and can be found in Memorial Hall after the 9:30 and 11:00am services.



Thank you.
Jeff McDowell

NOVEMBER CALENDAR



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

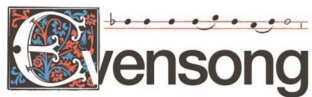
8:00am Morning Prayer (Rite I)
9:30am Family service followed by church school
10:15 Discovery Group (Bible Study) begin (Patterson)
11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

12:00pm Men's Prayer Gathering (Patterson)
6:30pm Special Vestry Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6—All Saints Sunday

Daily Savings Time Begins - Set Clocks Back
8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
9:30am Family service followed by church school
10:15 Discovery Group (Bible Study) (Patterson Hall)
11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)



4:00PM Choral Evensong

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - Election Day

6:00am - 9:00pm Polling in Memorial Hall

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Patterson Hall)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Diocesan Convention—Tarrytown

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Diocesan Convention—Tarrytown
10:00am Midnight Run (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
9:30am Family service *church school on hiatus*
10:15 Discovery Group (Bible study) (Patterson Hall)
11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00pm Vestry (Patterson Hall)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

JYG Nightwatch

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - Christ the King

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
9:30am Family service followed by church school
10:15 Discovery Group (Bible study) (Patterson Hall)
11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - THANKSGIVING DAY

Grace Church Office is Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 - Advent I

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
9:30am Family service *church school on hiatus*
10:15 Discovery Group (Bible study) (Patterson Hall)
11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - November 6

The Church invites us to honor our relationships with the saints on All Saints Sunday, and this year we will again do so at the 8:00 & 11:00am services on November 6. If there are names you wish to have remembered as an offering of praise and thanksgiving please use the envelopes you'll find at the church entry, or call/email the church office (845-358-1297/ parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org) and then mail a check if you so choose.

You can also follow the "Give" link at the top right of our website homepage (gracechurchnyack.org) to make a donation by credit/debit card, indicating memorial names in the comments section. **We need to receive names by Tuesday, November 1** for reading at All Saints Sunday services.

The Dancing Saints above are part of a larger series located at St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco. You can learn more about them and see the entire series here: www.saintgregorys.org/the-dancing-saints.html



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

*We are still looking for Church School teachers!
If you're interested, please reach out to me at
smrod74@yahoo.com*

The first day of Church School was on Sunday October 2, when we had our traditional Blessing of the Animals to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We had many families and their pets participate in the day's activities. The Church school kids made bird feeders in Memorial Garden to celebrate St. Francis and his love of all of God's creatures great and small. We also collected donations for Hi-Tor Animal Shelter. Thank You to everyone who donated. We collected enough blankets and towels that the animals will have soft, clean beds for a long time to come.

In preparation of All Saints Day, we are currently talking about saints, learning about the more popular Saints they may have heard of, and what it means to be a saint. This week the children read stories about St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, and St. Thomas. We talked about who these people were, what they did to be made saints, and how we can all live by these examples to be faithful servants and believers. We also talked briefly about how Christians in different cultures celebrate All Saints' Day. We will be having an All Saints' Day Celebration on Sunday November 6 in Memorial Garden after the 9:30 service, as long as the weather cooperates. On that day we will remember those that have passed, as well as honor the elders in our families. We will be making our own "Ofrenda" which we will decorate with flowers and pictures of our loved ones. We invite anyone that would like to participate in our celebration to please bring any pictures or objects to be placed on the Ofrenda next week, so that the children can prepare decorations.

Looking forward, please remember we are planning to have our Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 18. The Pageant will once again be held outdoors in Memorial Garden after the 11:00am service.

Peace and Love...
Sandy

Pet Blessings on The Feast of St. Francis

Photos: V. Becker



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (SYG) ACTIVITIES

Our Senior Youth Group welcomes all high school-aged students. The group seeks to build a sense of community with a focus on service to others.

Last month, SYG hosted a Sunday morning fundraiser breakfast following our 9:30am and 11:00am services at Grace. Our church family graciously donated funds which will be used to support our group's upcoming service activities.

This past week, our group enjoyed an autumn hike in Harriman State Park. We caught the autumn foliage at a good time and got in some fresh air too. The group had good ideas for other fun activities (bowling was a consensus pick!) so we'll be organizing other outings soon.

Looking ahead, we will be planning an event in support of Midnight Run, a service organization dedicated to helping the unhoused population in New York City by providing food, clothing, toiletries. We will be collecting lightly used clothing, especially winter coats, so please reach out to us if you have items to donate.

Want to know more? Contact [Brian](#) or [Kristin](#), and follow us on Facebook [@GraceNyackSYG](#).



COVID RISK UPDATE

Based on CDC data, the Rockland County COVID rate has recently moved to medium. **While not required, the wearing of masks is strongly encouraged at Grace.** The wearing of masks by ushers and those serving on the altar will continue.

A reminder about receiving wine at communion. The approved methods are:

- sip directly from the chalice (chalice bearers are expected to wipe the chalice both inside and out, and spin it a quarter turn after each person receives, **or**
- take the wafer in your hand and allow the chalice bearer to dip the wafer and return it to your hand for you to consume.

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

At medium risk level CDC guidelines suggest:

- If at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

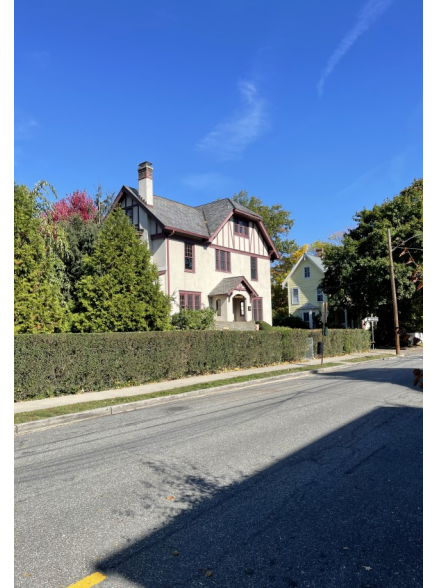
ANNUAL PARISH HIKE - Sunday, October 23

While a forecast of rain may have kept numbers down, it didn't keep our participants from having a great time exploring the ruins of the ORAK mansion, enjoying the wondrous fall beauty of Harriman Park, and sharing delicious food after working up hearty appetites. Thanks as always to Tom Perry for leading the group. and to the St. John's in the Wilderness for their hospitality.



A CHANGE OF VIEW

As you walk down First Avenue, you may notice that things look different outside of Babbitt House. There's always a sense of sadness when a tree dies or has to be cut down, as there was on Saturday, October 25 when three trees next to the rectory were removed. One was already dead, a second one was in poor health and threatened to damage the side porch, and the third had begun to compromise the house's foundation. A new tree will be planted soon. Here are the before and after photos. **Emily Nevill**
(Photos: V. Becker)



ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION PRESENTS: *Labyrinth Field Trip*

A group of Grace parishioners visited the labyrinth at Church of the Presentation yesterday for a guided walk ... many found it to be a powerful emotional/spiritual experience and a great tool for prayer and meditation. Special thanks to facilitator Beth Lawrence and Sister Christine. (Photos: V. Becker)



All Souls Day Vigil *In Remembrance of Those Lost in Mass Shootings in USA*
Wednesday, November 2 from 7-9:00pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Pearl River

From 7-9:00pm on Wednesday, November 2 (All Souls Day) **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** (112 N. Main Street., Pearl River) will remember those lost in mass shootings in the US in 2022 -- more than 500 thus far -- with a vigil during which names will be read and ribbons representing each person tied to a string of lights outdoors. All are invited to attend, either to help with reading names, or simply to sit and bear witness. If you would like to participate by reading, you can sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/H9KM7>.

FROM THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL MINISTRIES

An Update on Grace's Refugee Project

As you know, the Social Ministry Commission of Grace, along with other interfaith groups in Rockland, have resettled a family of six from Afghanistan. We want to thank this blessed community for supporting us and extending our faith and compassion beyond the walls of our church and beyond the borders of our home.

Our family of six adults (a mother, father, two grown daughters and two grown sons) arrived on September 27 to their new home in Clarkstown. This is a talented family who are educated and ready to work and become independent. We are truly grateful for the part so many of you have taken on in this endeavor – such as providing Amazon Wish List items, transportation, food, clothes - as we continue to support them. For example, they need medical attention, driver permits, food, clothing, English language lessons, and an entire range of things we take for granted. Please let Heidi Hill know if you would like to provide your time and talent, or financial support, to this endeavor.

This has been an enlightening experience and a larger scope of a project than we ever imagined when we decided to take part, but one that has been more fulfilling than we can even begin to explain. So thank you again for answering the call and those of you that will in the future. God Bless Grace. **Heidi Hill, COSM Chair**

Refugee Cohort Members: Karin Baere, Heidi Hill, Sondra Holt, Bonnie Parsekian, Beth Paskowski, Kathy Sestak, Claudia Uccellani, Paul Weiss

More Ways to Help...



Join us in Memorial Hall at 10:00am on November 12 as we assemble meals to be distributed to the un-housed population of New York City through Midnight Run.

If you are able to bring food items (ex: lunch meat, cheese, bread, cookies, etc.), **please email Heidi at nyack13@gmail.com** to make sure you are included on the list.



Please consider donating food to People to People. Our collection basket is in the entry to church for items that you bring with you on Sundays, or they can be dropped in the office during regular hours. People to People helps to put food on the tables of struggling families, children, seniors, veterans and so many of the most vulnerable among us. Please join in helping our neighbors. Some items you can donate are: tuna fish (in water), pasta, macaroni & cheese, dry or canned beans, oatmeal, cereals, canned vegetables and more. Thank you.

Gift Cards/Laundry Support

Occasionally individuals come to us with very basic immediate needs, like food and diapers for their children. We try to help with small gift cards for stores like ShopRite, Target, or Walgreen's. Help with laundry supplies is also appreciated. Donations of gift cards or materials/change for laundry are welcome — just bring to the office or drop in the plate on Sundays. **Your support—past, present, and future, is truly appreciated.**





Another in the Tales of The Shop Series
Two Hours and Thirty Minutes
Theresa Bergen

The most frequent question at the Shop is: *How does this all work?*
The answer - strangely enough - depends on the questioner.

From someone who is unfamiliar with the concept of thrift shops:

Answer: "People give us stuff, we sell it and give the money away"

Response: One customer, who had very little English and we had NO German, finally nodded saying "That's a lot of three dollar".

From someone who is not too sure we aren't a scam:

Answer: "We are a charity, all volunteers, established in 1968 and we gave away \$28,000 dollars in 2021.... [Here's our brochure and list of charities](#)"

Response: something along the lines of: "Oh... you have a list" (You can almost see the wheels turning: "Well, if they have a printed list it must be legit")

From someone who has just tried to haggle over a \$5 item.

Answer: while handing them a brochure and say: "We are a charity. We feed people. Yes we collect tax . That's \$5.42, please."

Response: If done correctly, "keep the change". (The trick is to induce some guilt but not embarrassment)

The exchanges are usually fun. We work to fit the word charity into every conversation. We want people to feel that they are part of a larger experience. We want them to understand how good charity/love feels . We want them to come back... we want them to donate stuff... we want to volunteer which in our little world is the ultimate.

From you, a member of Grace

Answer: It works two hours and thirty minutes at a time. That's one shift. We can offer you an opportunity to work at your charity **ONE Saturday a MONTH**. That's right... just 2 hours and 30 minutes a MONTH **and you can be part of a Nyack institution**. We used to do it that way.

You could make such a difference. We are short one person on Saturday leaving 2 volunteers to cover the shift. That's hard.

You could make such a difference. Two Saturday regulars are on their second shift of the week and another is on her third. That's hard.

You could make such a difference. Charity is love and if you don't have a regular gig that lets you feel that come to us for 2 hours and 30 minutes **ONE Saturday a MONTH**. That's easy. I know, for about 20 years I worked a shift every first Saturday.

Response: That's up to you.

(We are an equal opportunity organization and men are welcome. We have two who work a regular shift)

Want to know more?

Contact Theresa (esztyk@yahoo.com) or Kickie (lexow2@yahoo.com)

GRACE'S THRIFT SHOP

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING...

TUES/WED 1:30-4:00PM
 THU/FRI/SAT 11:00AM-4:00PM
 SUN (AFTER THANKSGIVING) 12:00-4:00PM

*"Why give the same old same old store bought gift,
 when you can support your charity AND find something unique?"*

Donations:
 BEFORE 3:30
 NOT on Sunday
 usually 2 shopping
 bags at a time
 Call 845 358 7488
 to check on space

10 S. Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960
 845-358-7488
[facebook.com/GracesThriftShop](https://www.facebook.com/GracesThriftShop)

More Blessed Beasts on The Feast of St. Francis

Photos: V. Becker



PARISHIONER NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS TO LAINIE MURRELL

We've just received word that Lainie has been accepted by the Diocese of New York into the final stages of

the process leading up to ordination as a deacon, and is now officially a candidate for ordination. Her third and final year of preparation is underway, including another field placement and on-going coursework.

RUSSELL PAUL FERNANDO MOVIE PREMIERE

Parishioner Russell Paul Fernando invites you to view his new film BRAZIL, BRAZIL, BRAZIL, available on his You Tube channel: <https://youtu.be/UvjLHpvk69o>. Showcased in the film are an array of original watercolors & silk batik paintings, all in brilliant exotic colors and tropical themes inspired by his explorations of Brazil. Also featured are jewelry designs showcasing the vibrant and multi-colored gemstones of Brazil, and highlights from his travels around the country.

Russell invites your comments and referrals.

RPF1961CH@gmail.com
[RUSSELLPAULFERNAN-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvjLHpvk69o)



FROM THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

The 246th annual Diocesan Convention will take place in Westchester November 10 & 11. You can find out everything you'd like to know — and more — on their special website: <https://dioceseny.org/ednyevent/246th-diocesan-convention/> We're grateful to our parish representatives, Roy and Carol Kepler and Jim Cochran, who will be in attendance at the convention.

The diocese has also recently announced the slate of candidates who will be standing for election at the Special Convention to Elect the Bishop Coadjutor on December 3, 2022. You can find more about each of the candidates here <https://bishopsearch.dioceseny.org/>. The person elected will be consecrated May 20, 2023 and installed as 17th bishop of New York on March 16, 2024.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

The Episcopal Church Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop invites Episcopalians to participate in a survey to help the committee develop a profile of the skills, qualities, and gifts sought in its next presiding bishop, considering what the church and world may look like in the next decade.

The church's General Convention will elect the next presiding bishop in the summer of 2024.

The deadline for completing the survey—which can be found online here: <https://www.generalconvention.org/jncepb-survey> - is October 31.

VOTE

faithfully

It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church's responsibility to help get souls to the polls.

-Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

**Please vote Tuesday, November 8
Early Voting Begins October 29 in NY**

Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, NY

Vestry Meeting 7.21.22

Minutes

Attendance: Sally Cochran, Paul Shusterman, Adrienne Langford, Heidi Hill, Kevin Faherety, Sarah Stiles, Karen Huges (via ZOOM), Emily Nevil, Jeffrey McDowell Excused – Holly Bee, Margie Winslow, Pastor Tyler

Opening Prayer – Sally Cochran

Minutes from June 2022 meeting were approved

Senior Warden: The senior warden informed the vestry of Pastor Tyler's decision to not extend his contract with Grace past the end of September. An appropriate farewell celebration will be scheduled to honor his service to Grace. Thayer is working to schedule supply priests for the months of October and November at least in expectation that the new Rector will not start just after Pastor Tyler departs.

Standing Committee on Finance—J. McDowell

- Materials were submitted prior to the meeting and vestry members were asked to review. The major points in the report were:
- Pledge income off by \$8K from where it should be.
- Expenses are above the projections for the budget.
- Generally, finances are in okay shape, due in part to large gifts that have helped cover shortfall in pledge income, but budget for 2023 may be a challenge due to need to pay salary and benefits to new rector. The extent of challenge will become more clear as budget is developed later in the year.

The report from SCOF was approved

Standing Committee on Property—E. Nevill

- Materials were submitted prior to the meeting and vestry members were asked to review. The major points in the report were:
- Filming for the Gilded Age went well
- A Bike Rack has been ordered
- Verne Becker is working on soliciting bids for Wi-Fi upgrades for Grace
- AC units in Bradley and Memorial Hall now working
- Termite damage has been identified at the entrance to the Church
- The second floor of 137 is now vacant, has been inspected and needs substantial work. A committee has been formed to review what needs to be done and other matters related to this property.

- Work on the rectory continues – bids for kitchen renovation being solicited, exterior painting being completed by Jim Sevier with assistance from Eric Case and various odds and ends being completed. The Report from SCOP was approved.

Commission Reports:

Social Ministry – Heidi Hill reported that Rockland Interfaith Coalition continues its work to help refugees, Midnight Run continues to prepare meals the second Saturday of every month, and People to People collections in the Narthex continue. Heidi reported that several members of the Vestry completed Stop the Bleed Training.

Music – Sally Cochran reported that Jan Valentine continues to provide music while Brandon is away. She reported that Jan had scheduled several special music events for the next month – including Dru Pluhowski would be singing with other members of the Grace Choir that was composed by Grace Church choir member Mary Ann Bleeker. Sally further reported that Grace Music would return in the fall to include the Messiah sing, that Evensong would return in the fall, referenced the need to replace the choir room piano and the need to recruit musicians for the 9:30 service.

ASF Holly Bee - reported that the labyrinth visit in June was cancelled due to the extreme heat, but would be rescheduled for the fall. Further, on the 27th a poetry, harp, and scripture event in the garden was scheduled and would have as its theme – “Good Trouble” the phrase popularized by the late John Lewis. Scheduled for August Roberta Nobleman would lead a group of parishioners in a read-thru of a play by Rowan Williams

Boy Scouts Adrienne Langford – reported that the Scout Troop had concluded their year with an overnight backpack trip to Harriman, a swim party at West Nyack Swim Club and that summer camp at Camp Bullowa was in full swing with two troop members participating and working on merit badges.

Vestry then moved to an agreed task – the writing of post cards to all members of the parish. After half an hour of effort, members collected cards, addresses and stamps to complete the task at home.

Vestry meeting was adjourned at about 9pm.



NOVEMBER 2022

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parish Office: (845) 358-1297

Brandon Beachamp, Organist/Choirmaster – ext. 13

Sandra Rodriguez— Church School Director

Thayer Woodcock, Parish Administrator – ext. 10

Virginia Kosloff, Facilities Administrator- ext. 14

GraceMusic – ext. 16

Grace’s Thrift Shop: (845) 358-7488

Grace Church Website: www.gracechurchnyack.org

Grace Church E-mail: parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org

Newsletter Submissions: twoodcock@gracechurchnyack.org

Wardens

Jeff McDowell

Emily Nevill

Treasurer

Karin Baere

Assistant Treasurer

Sally Ann Mock

VESTRY

Retiring Class of 2023

Kevin Faherty

Paul Shusterman

Margaret Winslow

Retiring Class of 2024

Holly Bee

Heidi Hill

Karen Hughes

Retiring Class of 2025

Sally Cochran

Adrienne Langford

Sarah Styles

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH NYACK

130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

Service Schedule

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family Eucharist (followed by church school)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, music) *(also livestream)*