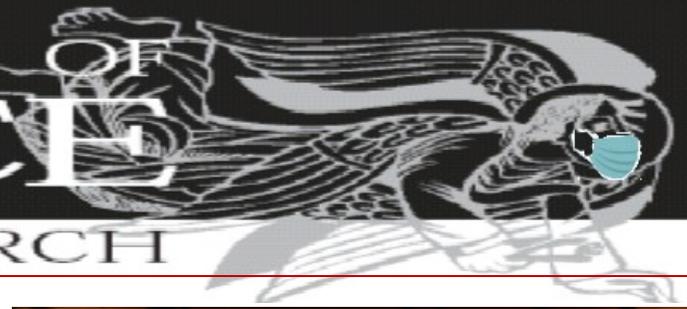


A MESSENGER OF GRACE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



December 2022

What a Day!

As if three services in the morning were not enough.

This past Sunday, in addition to three morning services, there was an afternoon service of Lessons and Carols and an Advent party afterwards, our first in over three years.



Almost 90 people filled the sanctuary to hear Lessons and Carols with Organist and Choirmaster Brandon Beachamp and the Grace

Church Choir in top form. The service was lovely and appreciated by all in attendance. Thanks to Brandon and the choir for their magnificent performance. The thought, the hard work, and the practice that went into making the service so successful was evident to all who were there.

Following Lessons and Carols, over 125 people gathered in Memorial Hall for a festive and joy filled celebration of the season. Food, wine, and beverages were provided by scores of Grace parishioners. Brandon led the gathering in spirited carols with Church School Director Sandy Rodriguez providing visual cues for *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

With Sandy's leadership, young members of the congregation created handmade Christmas cards that will be distributed to residents of Nyack Manor nursing home, where they will be singing Christmas carols over the coming weekend. And, as if that wasn't enough, they also constructed gingerbread houses using graham crackers and assorted tasty decorations.



Our new rector, The Rev. Dr. Dustin Trowbridge, and his husband Dr. John Howell were guests at both Lessons and Carols and the Advent party. Many parishioners got a chance to meet and talk with them. Fr. Dustin, and John had a grand time.

To Jennifer Giunta and Sally Seiler for their expert decoration of Memorial Hall that helped transform that space into an appropriate Advent setting for our gathering; to the scores of people who brought food, beverages, and wine to share; to all the people who served refreshments; to all who set up the room and to all who remained to make cleanup so quick, Thank You. Thank you, Charlie Cross! A special thanks to Pat Cose for all she did to make our Advent party such a resounding and joyful success!

And, to all members of the community who made Fr. Dustin and John feel welcome to Grace, thanks.

Jeff McDowell, Senior Warden

Thank you to Verne Becker for photos here and throughout the issue.



DECEMBER 10
2022
to
JANUARY 15
2023



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00am Midnight Run (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family service

Followed by church school & caroling at Nyack Ridge Nursing Home

10:15 Discovery Group (Bible study) (Patterson Hall)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

11:00am Grace's Thrift Shop Annual Meeting
(Patterson Hall)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00pm ASF Presents: *Blessed* (Church)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00pm Vestry (Patterson Hall)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:00pm ASF Presents: *Mystery/Light* (Church)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family Eucharist

10:15 Discovery Group (Bible Study) (Patterson Hall)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

12:15-1:00pm Refreshments

1:00pm Christmas Pageant (Garden)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30pm Nyack Community Chorus

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Patterson Hall)

Saturday, DECEMBER 24—Christmas Eve

4:00pm Holy Eucharist - A Celebration for all ages

10:30pm Carols for choir & Congregation

11:00pm Feast of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist

Sunday, DECEMBER 25—Christmas Day

10:00am Holy Eucharist & Carols

MONDAY 12/26 - SUNDAY 1/7

The Grace Church Office is Closed

Sunday, January 1 — New Year's Day

10:00am Holy Eucharist & Music

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family service

10:15am Church School Classes

10:15 Discovery Group (Bible Study) (Patterson Hall)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family service

10:15 Discovery Group (Bible Study) (Patterson Hall)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 1:00pm

Join us outside in Memorial Garden for our annual Christmas Pageant and enjoy a double-dose of holiday spirit as the church school tells the Christmas story as only they can.

The boy scouts are hard at work building the creche, and the animals from the Summit School are once again on the guest list.

Bring your family, bring your friends - ALL ARE WELCOME!

ALL WELCOME!

Advent Events

SPONSORED BY ASF

12/14: Blessed



With actress Roberta Nobleman as the elderly Virgin Mary, the Christ Bearer, retelling the events of Luke chapter 1 many years later. **7 pm in the church.**

12/17: Light/Mystery

With Ron Hammond, who continues with his architectural/historical tour of the sanctuary, focusing especially on natural light effects. **Noon in the church.**



TO REGISTER, EMAIL:

PARISHOFFICE@GRACECHURCHNYACK.ORG

OR CALL 845-358-1297



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Advent has quickly come upon us, and church school is in full swing. This past week pageant roles were assigned, and rehearsals have started. Just in case in you missed it, our Christmas Pageant will once again take place outdoors in Memorial Garden, on **Sunday December 18 at 1:00pm**. The boy scouts are hard at work building our creche, and the animals from the Summit School are once again on our guest list. Let's all hope the weather cooperates and we have another beautiful day for the pageant.

Church school and Junior Youth Group (JYG) kids will also be caroling on December 11 at Nyack Ridge Nursing Home. If anyone would like to join us, please do so. All are welcome. We will be meeting at Nyack Ridge on Christian Herald Rd. at 11:00am. The more the merrier!!

A special Shout Out to Axel Young who won our first annual gingerbread house making competition at the fabulous Advent party. Congratulations! It was a tough challenge, and all of the houses deserve honorable mention. The kids all did an amazing job. We also wanted to extend a great big Thank You to our new pastor Fr. Dustin for being our guest judge. What a lovely way to introduce him to our children.

**Looking forward to seeing you all at the pageant,
Peace and Love...
Sandy**

BTW...We are always looking for Church School teachers. If you are interested, please reach out to me at smrod74@yahoo.com

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. We have been busy this autumn season with a number of service activities including prepping a local home for refugees, walking in a fundraiser for suicide awareness and prevention, hosting a Sunday breakfast between services at Grace, feeding our community over Thanksgiving weekend, and helping with logistics for the Parish Advent party. We have made time for fun activities too, including a cookout bbq to start the season, a hike in Harriman State Park, and a group bowling outing.

As for our upcoming plans, we look forward to a holiday "Yankee swap" gift exchange, our traditional annual ski day in sometime in late January or early February, and event(s) in support of Midnight Run, a service organization helping the unhoused population in New York City by providing food, clothing, and toiletries. We are collecting lightly used clothing, especially winter coats, so please reach out to us if you have items to donate.

With an eye looking forward towards the end of school year, we'll also be planning for our annual service trip in late June/early July. After visiting Puerto Rico the past two years, we'll be looking for "onshore" opportunities to serve this year, similar to trips we have taken to Appalachia in years past. We will need a few parents/adults to join us, as domestic trips require help serving as drivers and chaperones during our trip.

Want to know more or to get more involved? Contact Brian (bmurrell@deloitte.com) or Kristin (cmkwalsh@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook @GraceNyackSYG.



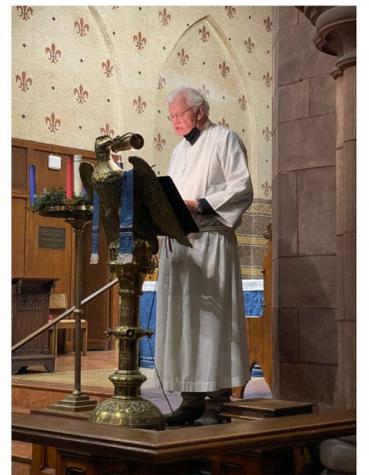
All Saints Day - church school kids shared stories and artwork about loved ones



At the Advent Celebration: joyful singing and a gingerbread house competition.



**ADVENT
CELEBRATION
LESSONS & CAROLS
&
PARISH ADVENT
PARTY
DECEMBER 4, 2022**





FROM THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL MINISTRIES

During this season of giving, I am so grateful to so many who give so much. Thank you to those of you that participate in Midnight Run by gathering to make 100 lunches the second Saturday morning of every month, thank you to our dedicated group of Grace parish volunteers taking part in the Rockland interfaith group helping our family of Afghan Refugees, thank you to those of you that participated in our Giving Tree project again this year, purchasing gifts for those in need. I am truly grateful. If you wish to learn more about our Social Ministry Commission, please reach out to me any time. We truly are a blessed community

Heidi Hill, Chair, Commission on Social Ministries



ANNUAL GIVING TREE

We're once again collecting gifts to be distributed to children served through programs at the Nyack Center, and others associated with Grace. Thank you to everyone who has already picked up a tag and brought back gifts! **Gifts are due back Sunday, December 11** so they can be sorted, wrapped, and distributed at the Nyack Center in time for Christmas.

THERE ARE LOTS OF TAGS LEFT!

If you haven't yet had a chance to pick one up, **you can still participate**. Just select a gift(s) or gift card for a boy or girl ages 5-11, and drop **UNWRAPPED** gifts off on Sunday (12/11) or at the office on Monday (10:00am—4:00pm). After Monday they'll need to be dropped off at the Nyack Center. **Thank you!**

More Ways to Help...



Join us in Memorial Hall at 10:00am on December 10 as we assemble meals to be distributed to the unhoused 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. Holiday food items are appreciated this time of year as well. Thank you.

Gift Cards/Laundry Support

Occasionally individuals come to us with 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.**



NOTES

FROM A LABYRINTH

By Verne Becker

I first became interested in labyrinths in 2011, when I discovered one on Block Island, a three-by-seven-mile haven between Rhode Island and Montauk. There was a crooked wooden fence up from Corn Neck Road and a stile to step over the fence, with a hand-painted sign hammered to the side: **LABYRINTH**. I had heard that they were often used for prayer or meditation, but I had never walked one myself. From the labyrinth, there were spectacular views of the North Light lighthouse, Block Island Sound, and in the distance, the southern coast of Rhode Island.



Over the next eleven years, I walked this labyrinth (and others) many times. I had read about their origins and about the recent resurgence of interest in these ancient tools for spiritual reflection. (A good starting place is [Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice](#), by Lauren Artress.) I had also adopted one of the common methods of walking the labyrinth: letting go of everyday thoughts and concerns as I make my way toward the center; opening myself to receive some kind of message or insight while in the center; and pondering how to carry that message or insight back into the world as I retrace my steps back to the beginning.

On my most recent visit, I had arrived just before sunset, with the sole purpose of getting some photos with the sun setting in the background. I was in photographer mode, moving around and concentrating on angles, lenses and exposure, nothing else. I would come back another time to do my practice.

I was mainly facing west where the sun was sinking. The sky was completely clear, with at best the tiniest wisp of a cloud -- not great for a sunset photo, because even though a bit of red began to appear, there would be no cloud patterns to dramatize the image. I switched back and forth between my phone and different lenses on my DSLR camera until I was satisfied that I had done the best I could. It would be dark soon, so I thought I would wrap it for the day. I cut across the labyrinth to the entry point and started onto the path back to my car.

But then I felt a little tug. Heck, I said to myself, I'm here, and there's still a little light left, so why not take a few minutes and walk it? Normally I enter a labyrinth with some kind of intention, some kind of situation or issue or person I want to focus on. Today, as I stood there with my camera hanging around my neck, I just took a deep breath and said, God, send me whatever message you want me to hear today. I'm opening my hands and my heart to whatever you want to tell me. Then I began.

At first I was trying to shed my photographic thoughts, accepting that I would have only a mediocre sunset photo. Then, mostly looking down, I was noticing how the labyrinth must have been constructed: the path was scraped out of the grass, as if I were walking through a shallow trough. As I tried to picture someone doing this, my mind shifted to Barbara MacDougall, the original designer, on her hands and knees with a shovel as she carved this labyrinth out of the ground. She was a longtime Episcopal priest who had served the church around the country and abroad, and who had died just a few months ago. I reflected on her vision for this labyrinth as well as all the other remarkable accomplishments of her life, and the legacy she had left behind, and thought, I wonder if I will leave some kind of lasting legacy ... no idea what that would be, though.

By now I had probably walked around two or three "circuits" of the labyrinth, and as I went around one of the bends, something bright caught the corner of my eye. I turned around, toward the east, and was immediately brought to a standstill. There, sneaking over the treetops, was a huge, full yellow moon. I always pause when I see rising full moons, but something about this one was benevolent and comforting. It crept upward, ever so slowly, as if a giant head was peering at me. It did not occur to me to reach for my camera.

As I took in the scene, another image popped into my mind from earlier in the day: My wife, Nancy, and I had been walking by the North Light lighthouse and out to Sandy Point, the northernmost tip of the island where we had been told the seals would be sunning. Unfortunately, there were no seals in the sand today – only seagulls. But as we scanned the ocean cross-currents slapping the sand, we noticed brown objects bobbing on the water ... one, two, four at a time. The seals were all there, silently keeping an eye on us. And as we walked along the beach back to our car, they continued to follow us and we would see their heads gently break the water's surface again. I remember thinking, that's a picture of God – wherever we go, he is watching over us.

Now, as I stood motionless in the labyrinth, with the rising moon growing brighter, I realized I had received the message I needed to hear. I circumnavigated my way out, marveling at the my little epiphany. And at the end, the shadowy labyrinth, the trees and the moon fit perfectly into the frame of my camera.

<https://www.blockislandtimes.com/article/barbara-park-macdougall/60469>

<https://www.forevermissed.com/barbara-park-macdougall/about> (plus many photos)

<https://www.blockislandtimes.com/article/ruth-mahoney-89/61251>

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR TYLER

Our former interim Pastor Tyler recently sent along this greeting and thank you for the gift certificate to the Culinary Institute of America that he was given from Grace.

It took us a while when we moved to Poughkeepsie to become accustomed to people saying they were trained at the CIA. We had that federal agency in mind, not the culinary school. We've been to the CIA many times since. Never, however, have we visited *Bocuse*, the French restaurant.

Our daughter Anna is visiting from Alaska this weekend. We took her to Bocuse for lunch today and had three fantastic meals: I had halibut, Molly had Guinea fowl and Anna had pork tenderloin. We also had a special hors d'oeuvres, desserts and coffee to match the desserts.

Thank you, Grace Church in Nyack, for this generous gift and recognition of our year together. I enjoyed our time together, I look forward to visiting when your new priest is in place, and man – oh – man did I enjoy this meal!



God bless you all!
Tyler+

An advertisement for Grace's Thrift Shop. At the top, a starburst graphic is next to a photo of the store's exterior with the sign "Grace's Thrift Shop". Below this, a dark green banner reads "GRACE'S THRIFT SHOP". Underneath, a red banner lists "CHRISTMAS SHOPPING..." with hours: "TUES/WED 1:30-4:00PM", "THU/FRI/SAT 11:00AM-4:00PM", and "SUN (AFTER THANKSGIVING) 12:00-4:00PM". A teal banner below that contains the text: "Why give the same old same old store bought gift. when you can support your charity AND find something unique?". At the bottom, a dark green box contains the Grace's Thrift Shop logo, donation information, and contact details: "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", and "facebook.com/GracesThriftShop".

OUR RECTORY - BEFORE AND AFTER

Everyone loves a good before-and-after and now our very own Babbitt House is ready for its own reveal. Since the beginning of the year we have refinished the hardwood floors, given everything a fresh coat of paint, replaced the front steps, installed new lighting, replaced bathroom mirrors, repaired the leaded glass windows, repaired leaks in the flashing and foundation, added electrical lines for air conditioners, remodeled the kitchen, and much more!

The house is now ready to welcome its new residents, Fr. Dustin and John. We hope that it will be a very happy home for them.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this monumental task: SCOP members (Theresa Bergen, Sally Cochran, Kevin Faherty, Kickie Fulmor, Heidi Hill, Sondra Holt, Sally Ann Mock, Margie Winslow), the vestry, property staff (Virginia Kosloff, Jim Sevier), and other volunteers (Roy Kepler, Raymond Bergen Fulmor).

Emily Nevill, Property Warden



SPECIAL ELECTION CONVENTION

The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in Manhattan

On Saturday, December 3, The Rev. Matthew Foster Heyd was elected Bishop Coadjutor-Elect of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Fr. Heyd is currently the rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest in Manhattan. Rev. Heyd will be consecrated as the coadjutor of New York at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine on May 20, 2023.



James and Sally Cochran were Grace Church's lay delegates to the convention and cast their votes through four ballots until Rev. Heyd was elected by a majority. Jeff McDowell was an observer at the convention and will be serving on the bishop's transition committee.

Jeff McDowell

Grace Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes: August 18, 2022 [In person/zoom]

Present: H. Bee, S. Cochran, K Faherty, H. Hill, A. Langford, J. McDowell, E. Nevill, P. Shusterman, M. Winslow **Excused:** K. Hughes, T. Jones+, S. Styles

The meeting opened with prayer, led by J. McDowell
July minutes had two name spelling corrections – Sally Cochran & Kevin Faherty. The minutes as corrected were approved, ALL AYES.

Senior Warden's Report- J. McDowell

- J. McDowell reported that he met with Beth Paskowski chair of the Transition Committee. The committee will interview three people in person in September and one person via Zoom. Vestry will not be able to interview the one candidate in person (if recommended) until mid-October. Supply clergy through the end of the year has been identified. October is scheduled as follows:
Oct 2 – Bruce Woodcock
Oct 9 – Maxine Cleghorn
Oct 16 – Alon White
Oct 23 – Judy Ferguson
Oct 30 – Richard Gressle
- Reverend Ferguson is available through the months of November & December
- Jeff spoke about Lainie Murrell and her candidacy to the diaconate. A motion was made for Grace Church to support her candidacy. Accepted, All Ayes.
- A request was sent via Realm to adopt regulations for Memorial Garden. A motion was made to accept the rule, seconded and approved, ALL AYES
- It was noted that normally congregations with a budget above \$400,000 need a full audit performed by an outside firm. During COVID we had permission from diocese to perform a self audit but it is likely a full outside audit may be required next year. Treasurer Karin Baere will look at what firms are used by churches in Westchester, and noted that Grace is the only church in Rockland with a budget over \$400,000.
- It is pledge time. The vestry is asked to return their pledges by September 1. Kickie Fulmor has agreed to chair stewardship. Carol Kepler will help her.

SCOF Report – J. McDowell

- Pledge payments are down by \$16,000 compared to this time last year when we were only down \$1,200 from budgeted amount. Expenses are over budget by \$8,000. The budget didn't include Pastor Tyler's salary. Some things to be aware of: we received a \$60,000 gift that is unusual; our funds lost almost \$300,000 this year.
- A conversation and discussion about Grace Church's finances took place; Jeff suggested that at the next vestry meeting he would provide an overview of

Grace's finances - the different reports that are reviewed, how to interpret them, financial history, etc.

SCOF report was accepted, ALL AYES.

SCOP Report – Emily Nevill

- Extensive termite damage has been discovered in the choir loft. Steve Lubeck (Greenbush Construction) has installed bracing work to make the loft safe with a charge of \$650.
- K. Fulmor, who serves as archivist, has been asked to look for plans for the original building of the loft. Our insurance company will be asked re possible coverage. Emily is hopeful people will donate to help with cost.
- A contractor has been identified for the rectory kitchen. Vestry passed a motion in April 2022 for SCOP to get two estimates for the kitchen. SCOP recommends Classic Touch to do the renovation. An upper limit of \$30,000 for the kitchen has been set by SCOF. It was moved that a maximum of \$30,000 from the Braxton fund be used for the renovation. Approved, ALL AYES
A motion was made to accept Classic Touch as the contractor. Approved. ALL AYES
- A third quote for replacing the boiler under Bradley Chapel was received The estimate was \$11,000 – much lower than the first two estimates.
- A discussion about rental properties was re-visited. 137 is in need of substantial repairs, which raises the question of costs and benefits of maintaining rental properties. SCOP decided to obtain a home inspection in order to understand the full scope of the work needed. H. Hill inquired with a real estate agent she knows for a recommendation of someone to complete that inspection. The agent offered to donate a home inspection of a rental property. **A motion was made to accept the offer." Vote – 8 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.**

The SCOP report was accepted, ALL AYES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Music Report – S. Cochran Submitted electronically 8/18 Choir and Liturgy:

- The choir will resume a hybrid schedule of Sunday and Thursday evening rehearsals with choral services returning on Sunday, September 18.
- Choral Evensong will resume on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm in October, November, December, February, March and May.
- The choir's last Sunday will be Trinity Sunday, 6/4/23.
- Again, thanks to Jan Valentine for her great work during Brandon's sabbatical
- Organ/Choir Loft Use: We will need to have the contractor doing the repairs to the loft meet with Robert Rast (organ tuner/maintenance) to discuss the repair process, timeline and costs for protecting the organ. The protection must be carried out by the organ

maintenance company and not the contractor. Costs associated with the protection of the organ need to be factored into the overall cost of the repairs of the termite damage. Until repairs are completed, Brandon advises that only the organist use the loft and that the choir will need to sing from a dedicated space in the nave or chancel. There will likely be a period of time during active repairs that the organ will be out of use and the services will be led from the piano.

- Pianos: The current piano in the choir room needs to be removed (junk removal) ideally by 9/15. We can make do with the keyboard for the short term but we need a replacement by the end of the year. One possibility is to return the baby grand, presently outside the entrance to Bradley Chapel, to the choir room and invest in needed repairs (cost unknown). Another solution is to move either the upright from Memorial Hall or the upright from Brandon's office to the choir room. Both those pianos would need repair as well. Brandon can arrange for the piano tuner to assess all three instruments and cost out repairs necessary to bring them up to spec for rehearsal use. Those figures would not be available until mid-September.
- Grace Music: Details still emerging regarding the 2022-2023 season. Anticipated events include: Messiah Sing (December 11), Grace Choir Concert (possibly Palm Sunday or post-Easter) and one chamber concert.

Commission on Social Ministries – H. Hill Submitted electronically 8/17

- Amazing news! Our wonderful interfaith group that has been meeting and planning is ready to sponsor a family of refugees. This family of six is from Afghanistan. They are temporarily in Tennessee and will likely travel to New York in September. It will be a heavy lift as it is a family of 6 adults, one being a paraplegic. Tolstoy has committed housing and is preparing the spaces. Our most urgent task is to find someone who can help us determine if the apartment is ADA compliant.
- CWS will handle the initial applications for all of the federal, state and county benefits for this family and will oversee all of that for 90 days.
- It is imperative that we get everyone who wishes to participate in volunteering with the family completely onboarded, including the background check. There is a cost associated with this and is about \$36.00. Anyone from Grace that does this can be reimbursed from our Social Ministry fund.

Other Business

- Grace's Kitchen will meet in September to discuss the future. Vestry members are welcome at that meeting.
- Vestry dinner will be held on September 10.

The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.

Grace Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes: September 15, 2022 [In person/zoom]

Present: H. Bee, S. Cochran, H. Hill, K. Hughes, T. Jones+, A. Langford, J. McDowell, E. Nevill, S. Styles M. Winslow

Excused: K Faherty, P. Shusterman

The meeting opened with a poem read by J. McDowell. C. Cox was introduced; she was on hand to answer questions regarding finance presentation. August minutes were accepted, with thanks to Holly Bee. ALL AYES.

Senior Warden's Report- J. McDowell

- J. MacDowell opened with a review/explanation of the various financial reports that are reviewed monthly. There was considerable discussion re the material and concern for the future in the current environment.

SCOF Report – J. McDowell

- Minutes of the previous SCOF report were circulated. The SCOF report was accepted ALL AYES.
- Existing Endowment brochure has been updated by P. Cose and will be submitted to vestry shortly.

SCOF report was accepted as presented. ALL AYES

SCOP Report – Emily Nevill

- Working on next steps of addressing issue around the termite damage to the choir loft. M. MacQueen has connected us to a structural engineer who will examine the structure and make recommendations. Finding original plans for the structure has proven difficult.
 - Getting a bid for replacement of the boiler under Bradley Chapel has been a challenge. Several new/revised quotes are pending.
 - There is some minor damage to Bradley Chapel roof that should be covered under warranty
 - Following inspection of property at 137 First Avenue, working through list/framework for repairs
 - Getting close to completion of interior work on rectory
 - Nyack planning board approved tree removal
- SCOP report was accepted as presented.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Music Report – S. Cochran

- September 18th marks the return to three services. As part of that, it also marks the beginning of the new music season. New members are welcome for both choirs. See the Messenger for fuller information.
- 9:30 service - Parish choir sings on the first Sunday of each month. Rehearsal at 9:00 am.
- 11:00 service - Choir sings every Sunday as well as Choral Evensongs. Rehearsal at 9:30 am with occasional Thursday evening rehearsals.
- Instrumental musicians are sought for both 9:30 and 11:00 services to provide occasional offerings
- Good news - Brandon is confident buttressing of choir loft so musicians will not need to be relocated. This will change when repair work begins.

Scouts BSA – A. Langford

- Monthly troop meetings at Grace resumed 9/7.

- Popcorn fundraiser to support Troop 2 activities throughout the year is in full swing and will continue through Oct 21. Scouts sold popcorn outside David's bagels in Valley Cottage on 9/10&11 and will be outside Nyack Hot bagel on 9/17. Popcorn can also be purchased directly from the scouts who attend Grace.

Social Ministry Report – H. Hill

- Rockland Interfaith Refugee Coalition: We are excited to welcome a family of 6 from Afghanistan to Rockland County at the end of this month. We are looking for volunteers who can make a commitment of 3 to 6 months, and have a variety of roles available. In addition, there is an Amazon Wish List of items we need to set up the home for this family. All are encouraged to consider donating, as you are able. When it is time to pick shipping options, simply click on "Kathy Sestak for HHR Gift Registry" to ship to the proper location. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3QFC8QS5TNR3?ref=wl_share
- Thanks to our volunteers in this Grace outreach: Karin Baere, Heidi Hill, Kathy Sestak and Paul Weiss. It was noted at the meeting that drivers are particularly needed; any volunteers with direct contact with the family must have background checks completed.
- Midnight Run continues each second Saturday of the month at 10am. New volunteers and helping hands are always welcome. Students looking for community service hours can also participate.
- People to People collections continue in the narthex and parishioners are encouraged to bring in non perishable food items to help those in need. Now more than ever with rising grocery prices, our help is needed to support the food insecure in Rockland.
- At the meeting Heidi shared more about the family we are helping with, and cautioned that personal details should remain confidential.

OTHER BUSINESS

- J. McDowell reported on a recent meeting with youth program leaders to get an update on where all the youth programs stand for the year. J. Marraccino has returned to lead the junior youth group. A concerted effort is being made to reach outside the Grace community to publicize the upcoming pet blessing service.
 - Pastor Tyler gave a brief interim rector's report, reflecting on his time with Grace and complementing the vestry/transition committee and work accomplished during his time with church. He shared concern that focused planning is needed concerning 9:30 service, which will provide the future congregation for Grace.
 - S. Cochran shared progress from the Gift Committee, which is working on creating a list of possible gifts that are outside the budget but that would be welcome.
- The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.

PARISH WIDE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open for various positions for 2023. We need people for: Vestry (3), Convention Delegate (2), Alternate Delegate (2), Nominating Committee Lay (4).

Nomination forms may be found in back of the church, at the office. **They are due in the office or to Kickie Fulmor by January 15, 2023.**

To be considered for vestry, the nominee must meet the following criteria: Be a confirmed member in good standing, that is, one who regularly attends the worship services, pledges to the parish and is a member of the Episcopal Church either by confirmation or reception. [See detail below]

Nominees should be able to make time commitments for vestry meetings and committee work; vestry retreat(s); congregational events; annual Parish Meeting; and Diocesan meetings and workshops, as necessary.

Please prayerfully consider these positions before submitting your name to the committee. Folks cannot nominate another person without their signature! The nominating committee will report its nominations to the vestry and then to the parish.

Kickie Fulmor, Chair of Nominating Committee

Responsibilities of the vestry

- The vestry attends to financial needs of the parish and is responsible for upkeep of all properties.
- Vestry members participate fully in the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish by being active ministers of the gospel in daily life and work.
- Vestry members are organizational backbone of parish.
- They are visible leaders supporting the clergy and lay leaders of the parish.
- Pledge financial support early in annual/other campaign

Responsibility of a vestry member

- Attend and participate in monthly vestry meeting
- Serve on either Standing Committee on Finance or Standing Committee on Property which meet once a month & have specific concern as shown by names.
- Each vestry member is a liaison to a specific commission/mission partner. Their job is to keep commission informed of vestry decisions and communicate to vestry activities and decisions of commission.
- From time to time, the vestry will participate in contacting by phone or email the entire congregation.
- Eligibility – must be a confirmed or received Episcopalian, pledging member and
- Commit themselves to concept of partnership between vestry/clergy leaders, recognizing the success of an inclusive model of leadership relies on everyone's participation .



DECEMBER 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



CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES

Celebrate with us

Sunday, December 18

1:00pm Christmas Pageant *in Memorial Garden*

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24

4:00pm Holy Eucharist – *A joyful celebration for all ages*

10:30pm Carols for Choir & Congregation

11:00pm Feast of the Nativity & Holy Eucharist; Grace Church Choir

Christmas Morning – Sunday, December 25

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Carols