

A MESSENGER OF GRACE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



January 2023

Dear People of Grace,

“Thank you.” Those are the words that I think are most fitting to open what will, God willing, be the first of many, many communications I’ll be sharing with you all in this season of ministry before us together. John and I have been absolutely overwhelmed, in the best possible way, by the thoughtfulness, care, hospitality with which you all have welcomed us into your parish community. Relocating is a taxing experience on the body, mind, and soul, and we have been delighted and moved to find so many balms of comfort awaiting us here in Nyack and at 128 1st Avenue. So, “thank you,” indeed, for all you’ve done to get us off on the right foot together in 2023!

As fate would have it, I spent a good amount of time on that “right foot” during my first days here in Nyack. You see, shortly after the movers left, and with the unboxing well under way, I set off for my first solo trip to the Home Depot for a few moving-in items. I was delighted to find that the directions on my phone timed the journey at under ten minutes, and off I zipped for a very short jaunt on the thruway. But just as I was making my way up the entrance ramp to the highway, I noticed a certain amber light glowering at from my dashboard. “EPC,” it cautioned. And then, “Oh no,” I thought to myself. “What does ‘EPC’ stand for?” I guessed “E” was for engine, and maybe “C” was for control... but beyond that, I had no idea what the light was telling me I should do next. Aside from the light illuminating, there was no sign of trouble with the engine or controls. But I wondered...would it be safe to continue on? Should I pull over right away? Can I make it to a safe place to park and look up what “EPC” means? Well, the short of it is that I gingerly made my way to the next exit, and into the Home Depot parking lot, where I looked up “EPC” in the manual for guidance on what to do next. “Take the car for service immediately,” it advised. And so I did, just a few miles away at the ever-so-conveniently nearby VW service center.

It turns out that a repair was needed to my engine, and that the parts would have to be ordered and delivered before I could get in for an appointment and be back “firing on all cylinders” again. When I got that news, I felt that heavy weight of “Ugh” pressing down upon me. Sure, the situation could have been worse. I could have been stuck somewhere needing a rescue. I could have had an incident out on the highway. But still, “carless” was not the way I envisioned I would be spending my first days in Nyack. It was going to be a nuisance. It was going to get in the way. It was going to slow things down.

But as it turns out, I think slowing things down, and literally taking things one step at a time turned out to be just what I needed. One foot before the other, step by step by step, I paced my way up and down the streets of my new neighborhood through those first days, popping in and out of the local businesses, looking and listening and noticing all the details of community life that are so easy to miss while sealed inside the confines of a vehicle cabin.

Was my inopportune car trouble a sign of God’s intervention in my life, inviting (forcing?) me to take things a bit slower, and to savor those first impressions of my new home? Perhaps. Was the experience of meeting Nyack on my feet rather than on my wheels a gift to my soul and to my heart and to my body, just when I needed it? For sure. So, in gratitude for right beginnings, and for getting off on the right feet, again I say, “Thank You.” Thank you, Grace Church. Thank you, Nyack. Thank you, God. Now let us travel onward, all together!



Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dustin+

WELCOME!

Fr. Dustin celebrates his first services with us this Sunday, January 22

Come join us and help welcome him at coffee hour.

CALENDAR

January 22—February 12, 2023

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

4:00 Nyack Community Chorus Concert

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family Eucharist

10:15—10:55am Bible Study (Patterson)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Coffee Hour to welcome our new rector

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

10:00am Women's Spirituality Group
(ZOOM) **Newcomers Always Welcome!**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family Eucharist

10:15—10:55am Bible Study (Patterson)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

12:00pm Men's Prayer Gathering

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family Eucharist

10:15—10:55am Bible Study (Patterson)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

4:00pm Choral Evensong

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

SATURDAY JANUARY 11

10:00am Midnight Run (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

10:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Followed by The Annual Parish Meeting

**Ash Wednesday is
February 15**



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Following the 10:00am service

Watch for details to follow
There will be opportunities
to participate in person and online.

SOME MORE DATES TO NOTE

Sunday, February 29 at 4:00pm

Fr. Owen Thompson is guest preacher for the Feast of St. Absalom at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Detroit, MI.

Saturday, April 29 at 10:30am

Lainie Murrell will be ordained as a deacon at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in NYC.

**Nyack Community Chorus/
Nyack Women's Ensemble**
present
Music of Peace & Beauty
Conductor: Dru Pluhowski

January 21, 2023 **Time: 4pm**
Grace Episcopal Church, **130 1st Ave.**
Nyack, NY

**Happy
Holiday!**

Including "Shine on Me", "Can We Sing the Darkness to Light", "Sing Gently", "When You Wish Upon a Star" and more!

General Admission: \$15,
Seniors/Students: \$10, Under 12 yr: Free
For more information contact Dru:
drupluhowski@gmail.com



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS January 2023

December always seems to sneak up on me, and this year was no exception. The kids from church school and junior youth group spent the last few weeks of the year preparing for our Christmas Pageant. The Pageant once again took place in Memorial Garden, where members of the congregation and community came to watch the children reenact the timeless story of Jesus' birth.



I want to once again extend a big "Thank You" to all of the parents and parishioners that helped, especially The Rev. Judy Ferguson, who was our narrator, Ian Graham who was also one of our narrators this year, and his Scout troop who built our beautiful creche, Brandon Beachamp who led the music, and Verne Becker, our technology master. We also had a new special guest this year, Ruby the donkey. What a showstopper she was! Thank you to Margie Winslow for sharing her

beautiful animal with us. Without each of you, we would not have been able to have the wonderful Christmas Pageant we had. If you have not yet seen the pictures Verne posted on our Facebook page, don't forget to check it out.



As we move from Christmas into the season of the Epiphany, we have started talking and reading about who Jesus was, and what characteristics he possessed that made people want to follow him. We are continuing to use the Storymakers curriculum, where the kids are reading bible stories each week, and prompted to creatively put themselves into the stories. Our theme of looking inward to find our gifts, our light, and how we can share these gifts with others will continue through the season of Epiphany and into Lent. We also planned a service project in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, where the kids made "Blessings Bags" to be donated to the Nyack Homeless Project. On the holiday Monday our junior youth group was joined by members of the youth group from the Pilgrim Baptist Church for an afternoon of cookie-baking for the Soup Angels community dinner later that day, followed by attendance at the interfaith community service at Pilgrim Baptist.

The kids are also looking forward to meeting and working with Fr. Dustin. We are hoping to have a Bread For Life class sometime this spring. New church school calendars will also be available next Sunday.

Love and Peace *Sandy*

PS: We are always looking for church school teachers!

If you are interested, please reach out to me at smrod74@yahoo.com

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP—UPDATE

We are planning our annual ski day event to take place in a few weeks. **All are welcome so reach out to Brian or Kristin for details.** Friends and family are welcome to join in the fun.

Summer service trip? We're still making decisions, so we invite anyone interested in participating to reach out now and express interest. Getting a sense of level of interest will help us as we think through potential destinations .

Collection for our next Midnight Run is ongoing — if you have donations of warm clothing or packages of new socks/underwear please be in touch with Brian or Kristan.

[Brian Murrell](mailto:bmurrell@deloitte.com) (bmurrell@deloitte.com) and [Kristan Walsh](mailto:cmkwalsh@gmail.com) (cmkwalsh@gmail.com)



On the holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. our youth groups joined forces with members of the youth group from Pilgrim Baptist to bake cookies that were later brought to Soup Angels for their community supper. Pizza was enjoyed by all and many of the kids then attended the interfaith service at Pilgrim Baptist together.

Photos: V. Becker



Ongoing Ways to Help...



Join us in Memorial Hall at 10:00am on the second Saturday of each month 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, Rockland County's food bank. Our collection basket is in the entry to church for items you bring with you on Sundays, or they can be dropped at the office. Some items you can donate are: tuna fish (in water), pasta, macaroni & cheese, dry or canned beans, oatmeal, cereals, canned vegetables and more.

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.

Calling All Knitters:

Would you like to take part in a new PRAYER SHAWL project?

We would love to have parishioners knit prayer shawls or blankets to be distributed to those in need of some loving care and prayer while dealing with an illness. Please reach out to Heidi if you are a knitter and are interested in learning more. Heidi : 845 358-0950 or

Nyack13@gmail.com



Another in the Tales of The Shop Series

THANK YOU

Theresa Bergen

Grace's Thrift Shop is so grateful for all who volunteered at The Shop and for all who donated lightly used items. **We couldn't do this without you.**

We held our annual meeting early in December and were able to allocate close to \$35,000 in gifts in support of local community organizations, as well as to Grace Church.

Look at this list — we make a real difference — thanks to your hard work and support!



<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mission/Serves needs of individuals with...</u>
ARC	intellectual disability /residential
Center for Safety & Change	survivors of domestic violence
Grace Church Food Cards	food insecurity
Habitat of Rockland	housing revitalization
Hearts and Homes	assistance to refugees
Health Lifeline	medical clinic /non-insured
Helping Hands	temporary shelter
Hi Tor Animal Shelter	animals
Homes For Heroes, Camp Shanks	veterans/residential
Kaleidoscope	mental health
Marydell Faith and Life Center	summer day camp
Mazeppa Fire Engine Co. #2	volunteer fire company
Meals on Wheels	food insecurity
Midnight Run, Grace Church	food insecurity
Murphy House	intellectual disability /residential
Nam Knights	veterans
Nyack Center	day care
Nyack Homeless Project	coat drive
Nyack Senior Center	seniors
People to People	food insecurity
Rockland Hospital Guild	mental health/residential
Saint Ann's Pantry	food insecurity
Saint Dominic's	mental health /residential
Soup Angels	food insecurity
Sunday Supper	food insecurity
SYG Service Mission Trip	HS age students
Touch	chronic illness/food insecurity
United Hospice	end of life care
Venture Foundation	intellectual disability/residential
YMCA of Nyack	day care



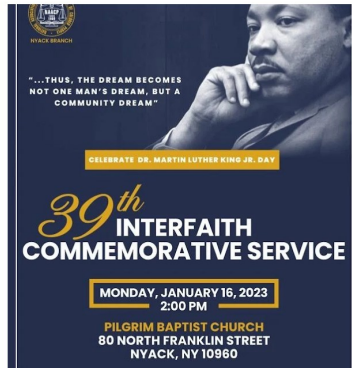
Numerous Grace parishioners were among the hundreds gathered outside the Phyllis B. Frank Rockland County Pride Center in Nyack on Sunday, January 15, for a rally in support of the LGBTQ community after messages of hate and ignorance were left on the building.
Photos: V. Becker

Stand with Pride
WE'RE HERE
RALLY
Sunday 1/15 • 3pm

In front of PRIDE CENTER • 28 S. Franklin St., Nyack



On his very first day as our new rector Fr. Dustin was introduced and gave the benediction that concluded the 39th annual interfaith commemorative service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Nyack.
Photos: V. Becker



Grace Church Quiet Day 2023

A day of prayer, conversation, and silent reflection

IN PERSON with The Rev. Gwyneth Murphy

What better time than the beginning of Lent to nurture our inner, spiritual life and gain some perspective? Join us for a Lenten day of quiet, led by Gwyneth Murphy, in which we can strengthen or renew our awareness of God's presence within us.



Chapel of St. John the Divine, Tompkins Cove

Saturday, February 25, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chapel of St. John the Divine, 170 Mott Farm Rd, Tompkins Cove

Cost: \$20 (includes continental breakfast & lunch)

Please register in advance by signing up in back of the church, or by calling or emailing the church office (parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org). A reduced fee is available for those who need assistance. Questions? Call 845-358-1297. Sponsored by the Grace Adult Spiritual Formation Commission.

About the Facilitator:



The Rev. Gwyneth Murphy is a Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader, Sacred Dancer and Episcopal priest. She has served in the Dioceses of Massachusetts, California, Utah and New York and is currently Priest Associate at Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck, NY. Her theology and spirituality is influenced by the Christian mystical tradition, Celtic Spirituality, Ecological (Creation) Theology and Feminist Theology. She has led four previous Grace Church quiet days.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING — QUALIFIED VOTERS

CHECK THE LIST!

If you are not a pledging member of the parish and did not submit a 2023 pledge card you will not be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023.

*If you have questions, please contact our pledge secretary,
Sally Ann Mock (samock34@aol.com)*

PLEDGES FOR 2023

as of 1/18/23

133 pledgers

\$322,130 pledged

Karin Baere
Ruth Beck Baliotti
Debra Banks
Peter Bannon
Nigel Bark
Jo Ann & Paul Barnard
Brandon Beachamp & Doug Reisinger
Verne Becker
Wendy Brown
Yvonne E. Brown
Jack Burger
Carolyn Cairns
Larry & Stephanie Campbell
Ed & Mary Ceccolini
Shirley Chalke
Kate Chisholm
Diane Churchill
Sally & James Cochran
John & Beverly Colgan
Jean Connor-Tierney
Pat Cose
Cindy Cox
Charles & Barbara Cross
Zara & Stephen Crowley
Alison R. Crowther
Robert D'Errico
Barbara DeFrancis
Hilda DeLoatch
Diane Deveau
James & Virginia Dillon
Paul Dixon
Daphne Estwick
Kevin Faherty
Gerald & Marjorie Federico
Ruby Frae
Vickie & Fred Frelow
Jeff & Catherine Friesen
Katharine Fulmor & Theresa Bergen
James & Peggy Gilbert
Jennifer Giunta

Michael Growney
Don & Ronna Hammond
Ronald Hammond
John & Marsha Havrilla
Joe Heider
Susan Hendricks
Mary Herje
Heidi Hill
Elaine Hinsch
Robert & Phyllis Holgerson
Sondra Holt
Karen Hughes & Joy Barrow
Liz & Jon Huss
Patty & Jimmy Hyland
Sean & Amanda Hyland
Daniel & Myria Jean-Gilles
Robert & Samantha Jeffrey
Roy & Carol Kepler
Maeve Kinkead
Christine Klinger
Rudolph & Kimberly Knight
Alex & Tessa Kratz
Rod & Linda Langdon
Adrienne & Joshua Langford
Amy Lehman
Mia Leo & Dick Kuczkowski
John Loftin & Michael Pfenning
Molly MacQueen
Orville & Sally Mann
Marraccino Family
Mac & Judy Martin
Valerie Mathews
Meg Mayo
Heidi McCarthy & Edward Knyfd Jr.
Jeff McDowell
William McDowell
Debbie & Bob McGuinness
Carolann McGregor
The McNeill Family
Angela Metzler
Sally Ann Mock
Margaret & Bryan Murray
Lainie & Brian Murrell
Emily & Jacob Nevill
Sarah & Tom Nittoli
Mary O'Donoghue

James & Cindy O'Gorman
Kemi Olateju
Keith & Moriah Olsen
Bonnie & Robert Parsekian
Beth & Joe Paskowski
Martha Patterson
Carlo Pellegrini
Tom & Dalila Perry
Winston Perry
Karen Phelan
Sherrol Pollard
Karen Porter
Caran Pullen & Holly Bee
Alma Richmond
Sandra Rodriguez
Philip & Helen Scala
David Scharf
Lynn-Marie Schnalzer
Roger & Sally Seiler
Anna Shalom
Robert Sorensen
Arthur & Donna Soyk
Paula Spruck
David Starling
The Stinson Family
Bebb Wheeler Stone
Carol Streichert
Sarah Styles
Elisabeth Sydor
Joan M Szanto
Laurent Szanto
Charles & Lori Tauken
The Rev. Dr. Dustin Trowbridge
Claudia Uccellani
Jan & Robert Valentine
Edward Van Sadars & Paul Shusterman
Kristen & Mike Velez
Nancy & Dietrich Waack
Barbara Wanamaker
Liz, Greg, & Sam Weber
Margaret Winslow & Joe Stennett
Thayer & Bruce Woodcock
Christine & Erik Young

ANONYMOUS 4

Scan this code to
PLEDGE NOW



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FAQ & pledge payment instructions



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 a finance presentation from Jeff. 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 of the various financial reports that are reviewed monthly. There was considerable discussion re the material and around concern for the future in the current environment.

SCOF Report – J. McDowell

- Minutes of the previous SCOF report were circulated. The SCOF minutes were accepted ALL AYES.
- Existing Endowment brochure has been updated by P. Cose and will be submitted to vestry for approval 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 bid for replacement of boiler under Bradley Chapel a challenge. Several new/revised quotes pending.
- There is some minor damage to Bradley Chapel roof that should be covered under warranty
- Following inspection of property at 137 1st Ave., working through extensive list/framework for repairs going forward
- Getting close to completion of interior work on rectory
- Nyack planning board approved tree removal as requested.
- 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 the 9:30 and 11:00 services to provide occasional solos or en-

semble offerings

- Good news - Brandon is confident in the buttressing of the choir loft so musicians will not need to be relocated at this time. However when work begins on repair of the loft, this will change.

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 and transition committee and work accomplished during his time with the church. He shared his

concern that focused planning is needed concerning the 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.

Grace Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes: October 27, 2022 [via ZOOM]

[Abbreviated business mtg]

Present: H. Bee, S. Cochran, : K Faherty, A. Langford, J. McDowell, E. Nevill, P. Shusterman, , M. Winslow Ex-cused: H. Hill, K. Hughes, S. Styles

The meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from the September vestry meeting were approved. ALL AYES.

SCOP Action Items

E. Nevill reported on result of electronic vote for accepting bid from Blend Air for replacement of boiler under Bradley Chapel (7 voted all in favor/4 no response). To pay for boiler replacement cost of \$13,100 there will be draw down from future fund. **Moved and accepted ALL AYES.**

SCOF Action Items

It has been moved that gift of \$10,000 received from Christ Church Cathedral in honor of Rudolph Knight (a total of \$8000 after standard 10% reduction to COSM and organ fund) be used to establish a new initiative fund to be used at the direction of new rector. **Approved ALL AYES**

COMMISSION REPORTS

Scouts BSA – A. Langford

- Fall Camporee at Bullowa celebrated the camp's 75th anniversary and Troop 2 contributed items for a time capsule
- Court of Honor recognized several scouts for achieving new ranks and earning a variety of merit badges
- The popcorn fundraiser is coming to a close. Thank you to all at Grace who supported our scouts by buying popcorn and donating to military families.
- Huge congratulations to Jack Gannon who earned the rank of Eagle Scout on 10/22. Court of Honor ceremony details TBD

Social Ministry Report – H. Hill

- **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 (6) 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 6 adults (a mother, father, 2 grown daughters and 2 grown sons) arrived on September 27th 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. Refugee Cohort Members: Karin Baere, Heidi Hill, Sondra Holt, Bonnie Parsekian, Beth Paskowski, Kathy Sestak, Claudia Uccellani, Paul Weiss

The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.

Grace Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes: November 17, 2022 [via ZOOM]

Present: H. Bee, S. Cochran, K Faherty, K. Hughes, A. Langford, J. McDowell, E. Nevill, P. Shusterman, S. Styles, M. Winslow Ex-cused: H. Hill

The meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from the October vestry meeting were approved. ALL AYES.

Senior Warden's Report – J. McDowell

New rector has now informed his parish of impending departure and we can begin spreading the word. Diocese & former rectors have been informed. Letter of Agreement has been circulated to vestry.

The Letter of Agreement was approved and will be filed with minutes. ALL AYES

SCOF REPORT – J. McDowell

- Again, basically doing OK, some areas over budget, some under; will review at year-end. Stewardship campaign will go on until after the Advent celebration when people have had opportunity to meet new rector. More thank you's will be written during December meeting – materials are available in the office for pickup. An effort will be made to reach out to those previous pledgers who have not pledged. SCOF Report approved. ALL AYES

SCOP Report & Action Items—E. McDowell

- SCOP report was circulated. Two major items were work on boilers to bring them up to safety and efficiency standards and completing work on the rectory kitchen renovations. The kitchen work was commended.

Moved and accepted ALL AYES.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Fellowship – S. Cochran

- **Advent Party** will take place on December 4 following the 4:00pm Advent Lessons & Carols. New rector and his husband will be in attendance. Set up will be following 11:00am service. Those at L&C will be invited. Greeters and nametags will be used at gathering. Core food provided will be spiral ham, cheese/fruit platters/condiments supplemented by potluck offerings. Stressing vegetarian & kid friendly options. There will be some caroling Signups will be going out and help is needed with set up/clean up. SYG will help. It will be decided based on advance sign up whether child care is needed and where that will take place.
- Jeff reported that the recent FUN(d)Raiser brought in \$791; half went back into the FUN(d)Raiser account and half to People to People.

Youth Commission

Report from Jeff went out around events planned. JYG Nightwatch is returning after a few year's absence.

Music – S. Cochran

- Instruments - Pianos in church and Memorial Hall are being tuned 11/17 and minor repairs to physical issues (non musical concerns). Memorial Hall is used by the Nyack Community Chorus and they will pay for that tuning.
- Organ is receiving a full tuning the last week of November. Piano in the upstairs hallway needs to be scheduled to move to the choir room by professional movers.
- Upcoming services of note: Advent Lessons and Carols - 12/4, 4pm.Christmas Eve - exploring adding brass at the 4pm and 11pm services as well as augmenting the choir.
- Grace Music Board decided to halt any season planning until consultation with the new rector. We have received a few inquiries from performers for 2023. Consensus that the board needs to recruit new members as physical limitations from several on the board impact the ability to manage and host concerts.

Scouts BSA – A. Langford

- Seven scouts and nine leaders participated in CPR training class given by Howard Reiss, the Fire Chief for Fairview FD (White Plains) and local Nyack resident. The practical/hands on training for the life saving skill was well received.
- The Polhemus VFW Post retired several US Flags in the ceremonial fire pit that was a Troop 2 Eagle Project by Tyler Peterson. The Post Commander invited Troop 2 to attend the ceremony. It was a solemn and dignified end of the flags that have faithfully served as the symbol of our great nation.

Worship – K. Hughes

- The choir has resumed processing so we have added a clergy crucifer at 11:00. The offertory has resumed for 9:30 and 11:00. Looking forward to planning for Advent and Christmas. Someone noticed the state of some of the robes and so we should plan on another review of vestments as some are getting over used and could be replaced next year.
- Sally Ann, possibly Sally Cochran and Kickie would re-view/assess the need - the new rector might participate - that would be up to him. Then Sally Ann would advise what Memorials are available to spend on robes. The recommendation will then go to the vestry. This wouldn't be done until next year.

Social Ministry Report – H. Hill

- Annual Giving Tree project, coordinated by Paul Weiss will return for parishioners to purchase gifts for the holidays for families of Nyack Center. However, this year it will expand to include others around our parish community in need. Our office elf, Thayer, has been gathering names, ages and wishes of those in need and we are so appreciative that she has brought them to our attention so that our gracious community can continue to help those in need.
- Recently, our Afghan refugee project has expanded to now include nine dedicated parishioners currently helping this family. Stay tuned for an update coming soon.

Thrift Shop – K. Faherty

- \$500 to Soup Angels for Thanksgiving. \$1200 Saturday was a great opening to the holiday season. The opening of several Nyack thrift shops has actually increased foot traffic to Grace's thrift shop.

Other Business

- It was noted that the First Reform Church in Nyack is being sold to a non profit. Soup Angels will continue to operate out of their kitchen and the property will be used in part as a wedding venue.
- Sally Cochran report that the gift subcommittee continues to meet and is in conversation with P. Cose who is working on endowment brochure to maintain consistency of language and approach.

The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.



January 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parish Office: (845) 358-1297

The Rev. Dr. Dustin Trowbridge, Rector—ext. 11
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
The Rev. Dr. Dustin Trowbridge, Rector

Sunday Service Schedule

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Holy Eucharist

followed by church school

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Grace Choir)

(also livestream)