A MESSENGER OF CONTROL OF CHACKET

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From his weekly letter to the parish, we offer this reprise of Fr. Dustin's introduction to our Holy Week services...

On Palm Sunday, April 2 (just a few days away!), we will begin each of our three services with a joyful Liturgy of the Palms, before dramatically shifting the tone of our worship to The Passion. Please be sure you give yourself a little extra time to get situated once you arrive, as the opening of our worship on Palm Sunday is unlike any other. Plus! I've heard a rumor that our donkey-in-residence may make a special appearance for

one of our processions, so be sure you mark and circle Palm Sunday, April 2nd on your calendar!

On Tuesday in Holy Week (April 4), I will be joining my colleagues from throughout The Diocese of New York for the Clergy Renewal of Vows Liturgy at our cathedral. powerful worship service concludes with the consecration of Holy Chrism and the distribution of Fermentum by our Diocesan Bishop. I will be bringing a portion of both that holy oil and consecrated bread back to Grace Church for incorporation into our own Holy Communion and Baptismal liturgies. Curious of what that part of our tradition is all about? Stay tuned for an upcoming Letter to hear more!

On Wednesday, April 5, our daily Holy Week offerings at Grace begin, with a lay-led service of **Tenebrae**. This service of prayer, scripture,

service of **Tenebrae**. This service of prayer, scripture, and meditation is not found in our Book of Common Prayer, but rather in our supplemental text of liturgies called "The Book of Occasional Services." (Note: "occasional" here means something more like "on special occasions," not "once in a while"!) Tenebrae is meant to "provide an extended meditation upon, and prelude to, the events in our Lord's life between the Last Supper and the Resurrection." (BOS, 74) I will look forward to welcoming you to Grace at 7:30pm for that

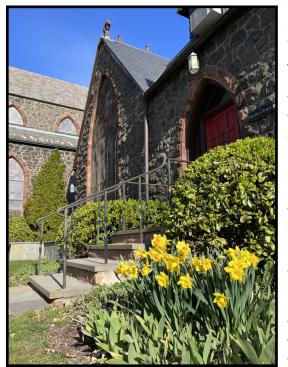
quiet time together, before the holiest days of our church year.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, begins The Holy Triduum, or "The Great Three Days." We will gather for our liturgy at 7:30pm, and imagine placing ourselves into the Upper Room with Jesus and his first disciples. On this one day of the year, we live into the story of the Foot-Washing found in John's Gospel, not only by hearing the words of Jesus' example, but also by feeling the cool water poured over our feet, as his first disciples did. The invitation will be extended to any and all present to come forward one by one and feel the story come

alive. Then, we will break bread and share wine together, just as we do every Sunday, and just as Jesus did the night before his death. But then, our liturgy will take a darker, more serious turn, totally unlike the joyful conclusion of our weekly celebration of the Resurrection on Sundays. In anticipation of The Agony in the Garden that Jesus experienced that Thursday night, we will end our Maundy Thursday liturgy with a somber Stripping of the Altar. One by one, every familiar decoration and liturgical appointment will be taken away from the altar before our eyes, the Reserved Sacrament will be transported away to our Chapel for the night, and the altar will be

cleansed. Finally, the congregation will depart in silence, until we re-gather on Friday.

The Liturgy of the Day begins at noon on Good Friday, the time of the crucifixion of Jesus. Our worship on that day will pick up immediately where we left off on Maundy Thursday. We will hear and read the story of The Passion together, and then set time aside to respond to that story with The Veneration of Cross. Similar to the foot-washing ceremony the night before, during the Veneration all worshippers will have a chance to come forward, and place themselves at the



foot of the Cross for a moment. Some respond to the Cross with silent prayers, some kneel, some reach out to feel the rough wood with their fingertips, before returning to their pews. Following the Venerations, the congregation will share Communion from the Sacrament that had been reserved from Maundy Thursday evening. Finally, all the remaining Sacrament will be consumed, and the Sanctuary Lamp extinguished. Again, the congregation will depart in silence.

For those who desire an additional prayer practice for Good Friday, we will also be offering a lay-led **Stations of the Cross** service at 3:00pm, the time at which the crucifixion ended. Stations will be set up around the Church space, to visually guide us through the last steps of Jesus' earthly life.

First thing in the morning of Holy Saturday, I will be offering the very brief Liturgy of the Day found on page 283 of The Book of Common Prayer. The service of prayer and scripture will begin in the Church at 8am, and will include a reading of an ancient, imaginative reflection on the day that Jesus spent "descended to the dead," as we affirm in The Apostles' Creed. (BCP, 120). The service is short, but it sets apart a time for us to come into the empty church, as stark and barren as the tomb of Jesus, and to sit with the reality that, yes, Jesus really was gone from the world and all those who loved him on that terrible, grief-filled day.

After our Holy Saturday prayers are completed, Grace will burst to life, behind the scenes. Flowers will be delivered and arranged, musicians will rehearsing, and worship leaders will start reviewing their roles for our four distinct celebrations of The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord. First comes The Great Vigil of Easter, which is unlike any of the liturgies we celebrate on Easter morning. If you are wondering whether you should choose either Saturday evening or Sunday for your Easter worship, the answer is a resounding "Choose both!" Those who attend an Easter Vigil can attest to its power as it transitions from darkness to light, from silence to sound, from sadness to joy. The Easter Vigil has many moving pieces and many roles to fill, which means that few churches nowadays are able to include that service in their Holy Week offerings. But Grace Church does! For you! So, I encourage you to give it a shot, especially if you've never come out for a Vigil before. It's a liturgy that magnificently captures and expresses everything that we believe as Christians, and conveys it with great poignancy and gusto. It will all begin with The Lighting of the Paschal Candle out in front of the church at 7:30pm.

And then... then come the glorious celebrations of Easter Morning! For the most part, our Easter services resemble our familiar Sunday worship. But, everything will be much, much, bigger! We hope that this year, we will be welcoming a crowd to our church as we transition together into this newest stage our parish's life together. So, do please be sure you plan to be present at 8am, or 9:30am, or 11am, (or maybe two or three of them!), encourage your friends and family to join you, and extend the invitation to anyone you think might be lifted by the Good News and the good company we have to offer here at Grace Church.

Yes, our plans for a very full Holy Week schedule and busy spring calendar are coming together as we speak. I truly can't wait to share them with you!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dustin+



FLOWER MEMORIALS

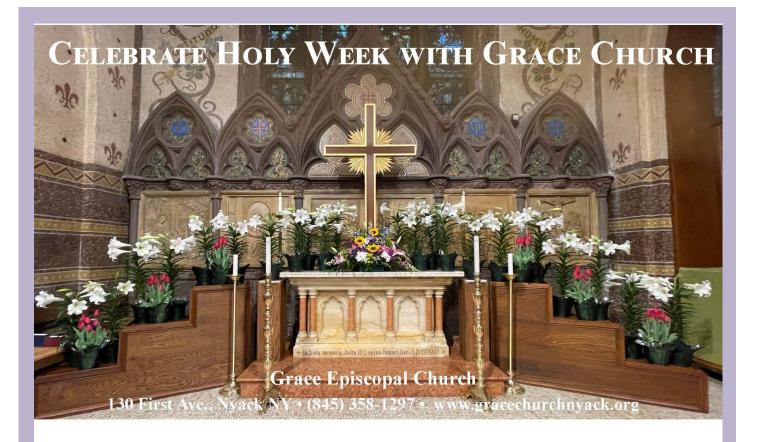
We invite your memorial gifts for special flowers and music to enhance our festive Easter celebrations. Envelopes are available in the church or scan the code to make a memorial gift via Giving Fire.

Donations will be split between music and flowers. Please

leave names in the comments section.

Names must be received by April 3 for inclusion in the Easter bulletins.





THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

8:00am: Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am: Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist (Family Worship) 11:00am: Liturgy of the Palms & Choral Holy Eucharist with Sung Passion

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, APRIL 5

7:30pm: Tenebrae Prayers and Meditations

Maundy Thursday, April 6

7:30pm: Liturgy of the Day with Foot-Washing, Holy Communion, and Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Noon: Liturgy of the Day with Congregational Passion Reading, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament **3:00pm:** Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8

8:00am: Holy Saturday Prayers **7:30pm** The Great Vigil of Easter followed by a reception in Memorial Hall

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

8:00am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30am: Festive Holy Eucharist (Family Worship) 11:00am: Festal Choral Holy Eucharist



SATURDAY, APRIL 1

9:30am Run-through for Maundy Thursday/Good Friday services

SUNDAY, APRIL 2—Palm Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:00am Gather for church school procession

9:30am Family Eucharist

10:15am Church School Classes

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

THURSDAY, APRIL 6—Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy

FRIDAY, APRIL 7—Good Friday

12:00pm Good Friday Liturgy & Veneration of the Cross 3:00pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, APRIL 8—Holy Saturday

10:00am Midnight Run (Memorial Hall)

1:30pm Easter Vigil run-through

7:30pm Easter Vigil

Followed by a reception in Memorial Hall

SUNDAY, April 9—Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family service

11:00am Festal Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

MONDAY, April 10 - Grace Church Office is Closed

THURSDAY, April 13

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

SATURDAY, April 15

Cub Scout Blue & Gold dinner (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, April 16

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family service

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

7:00pm Vestry (Patterson Hall)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Boy Scouts Appreciation dinner (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family Eucharist

Followed by church school classes (Earth Day)

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

10:00am Women's Spirituality Group (Zoom)

10:30am Ordination of Lainie Murrell

(Cathedral of St. John the Divine)

SUNDAY, April 30

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Family service

11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

EASTER VIGIL RECEPTION

Following the 7:30pm Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 8 -- the service that begins our celebration of Easter -- there will be a reception in Memorial Hall with light refreshments and fellowship.

If you can bring festive finger food (savory or sweet) or help with set-up and clean-up, please contact Pat Cose



(pacose@msn.com).

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 22 BOY SCOUT APPRECIATION DINNER

Our own Boy Scout Troop 2 invites you to join them for a dinner in appreciation of Grace Church and its support for the Troop. Watch for details in Weekly Update



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS 2023

APRIL 2023

Spring has finally sprung and the kids from church school are in full swing learning about the season of LENT. We are almost through our STORYMAKERS LENT curriculum. This season has taken us through the desert and temptation in Matthew 4:4, to meeting Nicodemus in John 3:3, to the Samaritan woman who ran

into town telling the entire village she met the One who came to save the world. Throughout the Gospel in Lent, we are also reading stories about the many miracles Jesus was able to perform, and how each one was special and with purpose.

This will finally lead us to **Palm Sunday**, where we are planning to have the church school kids (along with Ruby, our resident donkey) participate in a Palm Sunday procession. The procession will start at Grace Church, where we will walk with the children bearing palms around the block and back into Memorial Garden for the Blessing of the Palms at the start of the 9:30 service. All are welcome to join the procession. We will be meeting at the front of Grace Church at 9:00am.

After the 9:30am Palm Sunday Service, the church school children will also be taking part in our second annual **Resurrection Scavenger Hunt** in Memorial Garden.

In other news, we are booking the **Sloop Clearwater** sailing classroom for 5/20/23 for a 1:00pm sail. It was clearly everyone's top choice, with 15 children that have signed up for the sail. Once parents have been asked to chaperone, and we have a final headcount, the open spaces will be made available to all parishioners on a first come, first served basis. Please keep checking your monthly messenger for more information to come if you are interested.

We are also still planning the **Bread for Life Program** for June 2023. If you have not spoken to me about this program, and are interested, or have questions about the program, please reach out as soon as possible as we are starting to plan for the day.

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



Refreshment sign-up link



Please pitch in to make the 9:30 coffee hour great!





FROM THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL MINISTRIES

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. Our next meeting will be on April 23. Please reach out to Heidi if you are a knitter and are inter-

ested in learning more. Heidi: 845 358-0950 or Nyack13@gmail.com

GRACE'S GREEN TEAM IS BACK!

Would you like to help us coordinate recycling, composting and plans to reduce waste and conserve resources here at Grace? Reach out and let us know you would like to be part of our team.

Heidi R. Hill

Tom Perry

Nyack13@gmail.com

thomasperry3@gmail.com



The signs of the times compel us to act collaboratively, broadening our circles of relationships and entering into diverse partnerships, as we begin to see ourselves as members of a global sisterhood.

- Sparkill Dominicans Direction Statement, 2022

Heidi Hill, vestry member and head of the Commission on Social Ministry, was recently interviewed for an article—"A Place Called Home" in Weavings, a publication of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill. The piece features the interfaith efforts to support resettlement of an Afghan family here in Rockland County, which has been supported by the Commission on Social Ministries and a growing number of parishioners. A huge thank you to all of them for their efforts. If you're interested in getting involved, contact Heidi: 845 358-0950 or

Nyack13@gmail.com

Heidi | Volunteer

This interfaith mission has brought to light the plight of so many great (immigration and health care) and small (navigating a grocery store). This family came to us with most members speaking some English and yet, they needed people with compassion to help them navigate and acclimate to a new country with all the nuances that process entails. Once our volunteers provided the family with a safe furnished home, Sister Eileen Gannon, a Dominican Sister of Sparkill, found sofas, chairs, and rugs for this family of six! In anticipation of the Afghani family's arrival, Sisters Eileen, Chris, Joan, and I spent an exciting afternoon with other volunteers cleaning windows and helping to organize the cottage.

Additional volunteers provided clothing and food (with financial support from Hearts & Homes for Refugees, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Catholic

Charities, and other local thrift stores) as well as supporting the family with ESOL classes, education, and when permitted, employment. Sister Cecilia, administrator of the One to One Literacy Learning Program, organized day and evening sessions for the family, and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Nyack is providing additional classes from Monday through Friday each week. Our budget and finance committee is committed to helping the family navigate full independence within the first year of arrival.

"Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:2)

The full publication is available here:

https://sparkill.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/ Weavings-Winter2023-1.pdf

ORDINATION OF LAINIE MURRELL Saturday, April 29 Cathedral St. John the Divine

Lainie Murrell will be ordained a deacon on Saturday, April 29 the Cathedral Church, St. John the Divine. The service itself will start at 10:30am, but doors will open well before that. Parishioners from Grace are welcome and encouraged to attend.

There may be an opportunity to Grace parishioners to process at the start of the service behind a Grace Nyack banner. Those who plan to attend and may wish to process should touch base with Jeff McDowell – jffmcdwll@hotmail.com.

These services at the Cathedral can be impressive, and in the words of Bishop Dietsche, no one does medieval pageantry better. Grace parishioner attendance would be a fine way to honor and celebrate Lainie's ordination.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Saturday, May 20, the Rev. Matthew Heyd, will be consecrated Bishop Coadjutor at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Matt+ has expressed his desire for parishioners from all over the New York diocese to attend his consecration and the reception that follows. The service will start at 11:00am. For Grace congregants thinking of attending, contact Jeff McDowell – iff-mcdwll@hotmail.com. This weekend coincides with commencement celebrations at Columbia University so parking will be a challenge and alternative transportation is being considered.





Our Adult Spiritual Formation Commission presented two workshop series during Lent: Spiritual Memoir, and Lenten suppers focused on four different types of prayer. Thanks to those who facilitated the sessions and to all who contributed food and helped with arrangements.











MOTHER'S DAY PLANT & FLOWER SALE

Grace Episcopal Church Saturday, May 13 10:00am to 2:00pm



Join us in our beautiful Memorial Garden for our annual plant and flower sale.

Hand made bouquets and fresh flower arrangements for Mothers' Day,
an array of annual bedding plants and perennials from our parishioners' own gardens.

A wonderful plant sale in a beautiful space!

Please save the date for the Annual Mother's Day plant sale, and remember to dig up plants as you begin doing your garden clean-up this spring. Plants can be dropped off Friday evening May 12 at the Church. You may also contact Sondra Holt (sondrasholtgmail.com) or Karin Baere (baerefamily@optonline.com) to arrange drop off at another time.





Grace Episcopal Church - Vestry Minutes: 1.19.2023 Attendees at meeting: Father Dustin, J. McDowell, S. Cochran, M. Winslow, H. Hill, E. Nevill, P. Shusterman, A. Langford, H. Bee, and S.Styles.

SCOF report by J. McDowell.

- Good news that 2022 ended with a surplus. Unfortunately 2023 may be different due to expenses going up, especially payroll. Jeff is cautiously hopeful about several repeat large gifts.
- There was discussion about moving \$10,000 from the Memorial Fund to the budget to use for repairs. This will make the repair line \$40,000. There is also \$19,000 left from a \$50,000 gift in received 2021. Discussion about moving that money to be used for unexpected repairs that may come up. This will make the Major Repair Line \$25,000.
- Motion to accept the SCOF report made by E. Nevill, second by M. Winslow. All in favor.
- Motion to accept the 2023 Budget made by M. Winslow, second by P. Shusterman. All in favor.
- Motion to move \$10,000 from the Memorial Fund to the budget repair line made by H. Bee, second by S. Cochran. All in favor.
- Motion to move \$19,000 left from gift to the major repair line made by S. Styles, second by H. Bee. All in favor.

SCOP report given by E. Nevill.

Big things for 2023 are getting 137 First Ave ready and back on the market and the organ / choir loft repair.

- Motion to accept SCOP report made by M. Winslow, second by H. Hill. All in favor.
- 137 First Ave needs windows replaced. E. Nevill / SCOP presented a bid from Classic Touch to replace 14 windows for \$9,880.

Motion to accept the bid from Classic Touch made by M. Winslow, second by H. Hill. All in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

S. Cochran presented copies of two policies for review by the Vestry. There was a lengthy discussion about the policy on acceptance of donations (gifts). After discussion, a minor change to bullet item #3 was made.

Motion to accept the policy as changed was made by E. Nevill, second by S. Styles. All in favor.

- There was also an amended Garden Committee policy submitted.
 - Motion to accept the Garden Committee policy

made by H. Hill, second by H. Bee. All in favor.

• S. Cochran brought up a Moses statue that has been offered as a donation by the sculptor. The donation comes with stipulations that it will be placed in Memorial Garden near the niche where the sculptor's parents are buried. We had discussion about this not being allowed as per the Garden Committee policy. It was also brought up that finding another place at church for the sculpture still brings concerns, such as installation, maintenance, and insurance costs.

Motion to decline this donation made by Jeff, second by P. Shusterman. All in favor.

- We also had discussion about the Phoenix Rising statue. J. McDowell already had a conversation with the donor family and they may like to donate the statue to Boston College for display.
 Motion made to give the statue back to the Crowther Family made by J. McDowell, second by M. Winslow. All in favor.
- S. Cochran reported that the Gift Committee would like to continue to exist and meet, even though they have completed their task of creating the policy.
- It was brought up that at least one pew is in need of repair. We need a new company to do these repairs, as the old company went out of business. E. Nevill will bring this to SCOP.
- Nominating committee has presented nominees for 2023:

3 year Vestry terms – Angela Metzler, Paul Shusterman, and Paula Spruck.

Delegates - Sally & Jim Cochran.

Alternates – Adrienne Langford & Emily Nevill. Motion to accept all nominees made by H. Bee, second by S. Cochran. All in favor.

- Fr. Dustin brought up an IRS housing form he needs to be filled out. Motion by H. Bee, second by J. McDowell. All in favor.
- Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 12.
 There will be 8am and 10am services. Meeting will follow 10am service.

Social Ministry report by H. Hill.

In addition to our regular monthly participation with Midnight Run, Social Ministry Commission also delivered over 200 pairs of hand warmers and 100 pairs of socks to Midnight Run. Donations made in memory of Clint Taplin helped to fund this mission.

In addition to our regular and ongoing outreach, another main focus this past year has been in helping a family from Afghanistan resettle in the United States. We have partnered with the not-for-profit organization, Hearts and Homes for Refugees. This interfaith mission has brought to light the plight of so many refugees and their needs both great (immigration & healthcare) and small (navigating a grocery store). This family came to us with most members speaking some English yet needing compassion to navigate acclimating to a new country and the nuances that entails. Our main focus, once our volunteers provided the family with a safe furnished home, clothing and food is to support the family with ESOL classes, education and when permitted, employment. Our budget and finance committee is committed to helping the family navigate full independence within the first year of arrival. Current parishioners volunteering with the family are: Karin Beare Heidi R. Hill, Sondra Holt, Molly MacQueen, Bonnie Parsekian, Robert Parsekian, Beth Paskowski, Kathy Sestak, Claudia Uccellini and **Paul Weiss**

Music report by M. Winslow.

S. Cochran brought up that Brandon is assessing all the pianos and other musical instruments in the church to decide what is worth keeping / fixing.

Boy Scouts report by A. Langford.

- Scouts enjoyed a fun filled holiday party at Grace on 12/22
- The Eagle Court of Honor for Jack Gannon was held on 1/7. Congratulations Jack!!
- Scouts are hard at work preparing their sledge for the 2023 Klondike on 2/4

NEW BUSINESS

- April 29 at 10:30am Lainie Murrell will be ordained to the diaconate at St Johns Cathedral.
- We had discussions about need to have someone work on Grace's Facebook and Instagram pages.
- We talked about getting an AED for Grace church and the possibility of getting one donated. S. Cochran volunteered to look into this.
- We talked about a Vestry orientation once the new members are here.
- We voiced how we have missed having a vestry retreat.
- J. McDowell was nominated / volunteered to open us in prayer at next month's meeting.

The meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned.

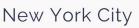


Celebration of the Life of the Diocese of New York

and the consecration of the **Bishop Coadjutor**

Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11am

The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine





GRACE NOW HAS A BIKE RACK!

As you enter the church grounds from First Avenue, there is a rack just to the right of the path for parking bicycles. Be green and ride your bike to church! Thanks to Karin Baere, John Colgan, and Heidi Hill of the Garden Committee for their efforts in leading this project.

Emily Nevill, Property Warden



APRIL 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

TreasurerKarin Baere

Assistant Treasurer

Sally Ann Mock

VESTRY

Retiring Class of 2024

Holly Bee Heidi Hill

Karen Hughes

Retiring Class of 2025 Sally Cochran

Adrienne Langford Sarah Styles

Retiring Class of 2026

Angela Metzler Paul Shusterman Paula Spruck

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 Family Holy Eucharist
followed by church school
11:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite II, Grace Choir)
(also livestream)