

The MESSENGER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

February 2019

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Susan Ironside



Dear People of Grace,

A few days ago we welcomed Bishop Hughes, and we shared a wonderful weekend of beautiful worship and a remarkable party! My office is still filled with the beautiful flowers, and my heart is still filled with your kindness and love. The words "thank you" seem wildly insufficient to express how touched I am by the ways that you all welcomed me and my family and my friends. I spent most of the weekend blinking back tears of wonder. So many of you spent so many hours working to create such a special weekend for our community.

As your newly instituted 16th rector (someone called me "the Sweet 16" which made me laugh and smile from ear to ear!) I find myself thinking about the 15th Rector, Mother Lauren Ackland. I work in the exact same office where she spent years writing and praying and studying and offering pastoral care. I stand at the altar where she so faithfully stood for so many years as she presided over the sacraments and shared Jesus' Body with you all. I wear vestments that once rested on her shoulders.

I am so thankful for her and for her priesthood. It is both humbling and thrilling for me to be a successor to such a holy woman and faithful priest. We have many things in common, and there are some things about us that are different, yet I find myself thinking about the ways that our love for you shapes us and shapes the community. In these early days of my rectorship, I am reflecting on the priests who came before me, and the foundations they laid for our common life.

I find myself, too, thinking about the 17th rector. (No, no, no, don't panic! I am not going anywhere anytime soon! I will be here for years. Honestly, you may get sick of me!) But I do know that one day another priest will work in this same office where I write sermons for you, and another priest will hold the chalice that I held yesterday, and another priest will preside at the weddings of babies that I will meet as they are born into our community in the years to come.

The task, I think, is to be mindful that I am here in the footsteps of others, and to remember that someone else will come after me. You, dear people, are not mine to possess. You are the Lord's possessions. As I am God's own child too. So we have one another for this season, and for the years that I am with you, it is my delight and privilege to know you, care for you, learn from you, celebrate with you, mourn with you, work with you, and pray with you, as your 16th rector. Someday there will be a 17th rector, and she or he will have the same delight.

For now, I relish that the honor is mine, and I rejoice that all of us are cared for by our High Priest, the Lord Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Many thanks for the wonderful party and service of institution. I have fallen in love with this place and with you!

Love,





Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 10
at 11:30 am

During Grace Church’s annual meeting, parishioners will vote on our new Vestry members, learn about our finances and our budget for next year. Your attendance is crucial to healthy communication within our parish.

There will be two morning services at 8:00 and 10:00 am. The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:30 am. Childcare will be available.

Please note: there will NOT be a 6:00 pm service.

2019 Vestry Nominations

The Nominating Committee makes the following nominations for Wardens and Vestry at the Annual Parish Meeting on February 10, 2019:

Warden—two year term:
Evangeline Tross

Vestry—three year terms
Kirk Nixon
Laura Norwalk Bendelius
Barbara Hughes
Jennifer McCulloch

Vestry—two year unexpired term
Mike Cullen

Vestry—one year unexpired term
Ed Nunn

Members of Nominating Committee:
*John Goodwin, Doug Harter and
Melissa Waterstredt, with the Rector
and the Wardens as ex officio.*



WARDEN’S REPORT

A Time to Celebrate

On Saturday, January 26, we celebrated the beginning of the ministry of The Rev. Susan Ironside as the 16th Rector of Grace Church.

Let that sink in a minute.

The process that got this community of faith to this point was the result of a great deal of work, effort and dedication by many members of this congregation – profile committees, search committees, vestries, wardens, consultants and many others. Much thought and prayer went into the process including some stress and some sleepless nights on the part of some.

All of that said, we begin a new day in the life of Grace Church. We have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. We have a strong healthy parish, a vibrant congregation, a talented staff and strong leadership. We have a recognized position of leadership in the Borough of Madison, Morris County and in the Diocese of Newark for so many parts of our parish life from music to outreach and much in between. We have buildings that are in good repair on a campus that is well kept and well maintained. The list could go on.

Yes, we have challenges and issues that we must address. Stewardship, fundraising, volunteers, capital improvements to buildings, the future of some of our ministries and the expansion of our congregation all come to mind. There are others as well.

All of that said, let us take time on Saturday and in the weeks to come to celebrate where we are as a congregation and what has been accomplished in the recent years as we strive together to move Grace into this new period.

*Your Wardens,
John Garde &
Tom Honohan*





PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Canon Michel Belt

Grace has begun a new Adult Ed course—this year's Good Book Club. Throughout Epiphany, we're studying St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, on his most complex, and most theological letter. Strangely, Paul is writing to a community unknown to him—the rest of his letters (those he wrote and those attributed to him) are to communities he founded. In those, he lived in the community—sometimes for several years—working, teaching and preaching. He knew those to whom he wrote, who helped establish the community, who kept it functioning in his absence.

Thinking of Paul's devotion to these far-flung communities, I think of the ways I have come to share community with you. I think of early 2016, when few knew who I was, and I experienced things here for my first time. In preparation for the Rummage Sale, I stood in front of furniture with Missy Partridge pricing it—getting to know her devotion to Grace, her gentle nature, and her warm sense of humor.

On other early days, as I sat in a pew, Kit Cone would invite me to assist with communion. He would politely approach me, with both elements and a stole in hand.

I think of working with Mother Lauren before her departure. And the welcome I received from so many. Or Charlie Jurgensen's warm greeting the day we passed

through the kitchen, formally introduced ourselves, and he proclaimed "You're a priest!"

I think too of June 20, 2016, when I was suddenly the only priest here. "Failing retirement" is one thing, but doing the work of two priests was not something I ever anticipated doing again in my life—I had spent the majority of my priesthood as the sole priest in two very different settings (suburban New Jersey and an urban setting in Connecticut). It had taken much prayer (on my part), and some coercing by Mother Lauren and John Garde, with their plaintive "We need you." The decision wasn't easy, and it certainly wasn't something I wished for.

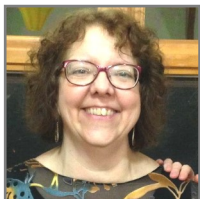
But I wanted to become part of some community "back home" in New Jersey. For that reason I sought out the local Rotary. In the first year of relocating to Connecticut, I was swamped with the peculiarities of an urban parish, an aging (1850s) building, a "hurting" congregation (their new-found Rector had lasted only three years), and rebuilding their self-image while doing some significant repair work (to their egos and their facilities). When a parishioner invited me to Rotary, I didn't even ask what Rotary was, I just went (lunch was included!). There I found a group of people from diverse backgrounds, of diverse ethnicities and religions (or none at all), who sought

friends and connections, (and in Rotary-speak) to provide "Service Above Self." So I joined!

It didn't detract from my Parish community. Both sought the same thing—to make our world a better place—they just approached it differently. Rotary, by men and women working together, believed doing so would make this world better for all creation. At the Parish, we also wanted to make the world better, but by reflecting a loving Creator-God. Acknowledging that through our words and our lives, we could invite others to experience that love.

Over time, Grace offered its vision of community to me. In no way diminishing my Rotary-experience, Grace allowed me to see God at work in many ways—through a secular "club," and through people of faith—seeking the inclusion of all and the improvement of our world.

Both organizations have much work to do to truly invite, let alone incorporate "the other," but both are trying to be a place of welcome, a place where all can work together, where creation can be improved by people working for others. This may seem a bit of an anathema to many living in the 21st century, but that doesn't mean we should give up the effort. So, let's pull together—under our new Rector—let's pledge and work and struggle together to make Grace all that it can be!



MUSIC AT GRACE

Dr. Anne Matlack

Bach's St. Matthew Passion

Dr. Anne's Bucket List

When I was in graduate school I had the privilege of singing Bach's St. Matthew Passion twice, and every Holy Week of my adult life, I would make sure I made it through all sides of my favorite old (vinyl) recording as I went through my week. I've ALWAYS wanted to conduct this piece, and last year I realized -what was I waiting for? I have the talented and dedicated singers in Harmonium, but the other challenges are daunting. Double choir, double orchestra, double set of soloists, need for a venue with beautiful acoustics where everyone fits, the chorus can sit, and the audience can park are very real hurdles which need a lot of funds as well.



Sunday, April 7, 1:30 pm

at St. Mary's Abbey
Delbarton

230 Mendham Rd,
Morristown, NJ 07960

Scheduled early to accommodate the monk's schedule at the Abbey.

With the support of my board, we have figured out these challenges, engaging St. Mary's Abbey at Delbarton as our venue (seats 600, and we have hired professional parking management). I am thrilled that we have contracted The Sebastians, a highly-acclaimed professional Baroque Orchestra from NYC, professional soloists, and Dann Coakwell, Evangelist. It will be sung in German with English supertitles projected over the chorus. One of our soloists is our own Patricia Ruggles. The New Jersey Youth Chorus will also participate as the children's chorus.

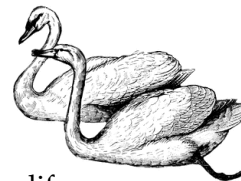
It is not too early to buy your ticket online to this once-in-a-lifetime event. I would love for all of my Grace Church people to experience this!

Tickets: www.harmonium.yapsody.com
for St. Matthew Passion, Swan Songs and
'Deep Diving' Bach's St. Matthew Workshop



Swan Songs

Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 pm
at Grace Church



This program will explore swan songs in both senses of the word: final thoughts on life well-lived, and a celebration of birds and nature. The Harmonium Chamber Singers will show their versatility as they move from the Renaissance to some of the newest and most exciting pieces of the 21st century and back, directed by Dr. Anne.

Harmonium's select 25-voice Chamber Singers will perform works by Jacques Arcadelt, Claudio Monteverdi, Heinrich Schütz, American Sarah Rimkus, Canadian Sarah Quartel, former Harmonium Composition Contest winner Michael Rosin, and more. The Chamber Singers are thrilled to premiere a work by Harmonium's own composer-in-residence Martin Sedek, and to present the New Jersey premiere of Dale Trumbore's *Open/Close Choral Consortium*. There will also be a complete performance of Hindemith's charming *Six Chansons* on poems by Rilke.

There will be a second performance on Sunday, March 3, at 3:00 pm at Christ Church in Short Hills.

'Deep-Diving'
Bach Workshop

Sunday, February 10,
2:00-5:00 pm, Grace Church

In order to more fully experience the *St. Matthew Passion* as audience or singer, we are presenting a workshop **Deep-Diving St. Matthew Passion**. It will be a fascinating afternoon learning the story of Christ's passion in a possibly unrivalled way.

See registration form included for more information.

Remembering Saint Valentine

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte



A few days before New Years' Eve, while doing errands, I noticed Valentine's Decorations

alongside the remaining merchandise for New Year's. Store employees were busy at work making space for heart-shaped chocolate boxes, red and pink jelly-beans, and a host of other "Be my Valentine" themed candies and decorations.

After seeing this, I could not shake the feeling of being rushed forward in time and in need to make haste lest I miss something. As I was pondering this, a question popped into my head. I wondered whether there was a space reserved on the shelves for Easter Decorations as early as the last days of December.

Curiosity won that day, and I had to ask. "Not yet. But we are expecting the shipments to start arriving next week," was the response I got. Sure enough, shortly after January 1st, Valentine Day's Decorations were on full display. Even a shelf or two held Easter items, and among them, one of my favorite Easter-themed treats, Cadbury milk-chocolate mini-eggs.

A part of me wonders what the cost of consumerism is to our religious life. We may not get fully into a liturgical season with

the stories and spiritual truths that animate it before we are planning and preparing for the next.

As a religious educator, I am keenly aware that I am guilty as charged on that count. In the midst of the Christmas Season, I was already thinking about my preps for Lent and Easter, and had even starting the process of reviewing various aspects of Vacation Bible School curriculum.

Some of it had to do with the practical necessity of the timing of orders and the procuring of materials to be ready for upcoming events. But there is also the push to consume. Promotions start hitting my inbox with the promise of savings and freebies. Why not take advantage of them? However, there is a part of me that wishes that I could be more fully in the moment: to make time as a spiritual practice to deepen my understanding of the season while in the season.

Through all these, I ponder the ways in which Christian Celebrations have been mapped over Pagan ones, just like seasonal items vying for shelf space. Christmas came to be celebrated instead of Saturnalia, a festival honoring Saturn. Or the crossing of paths of the celebrations in honor of the ministry of St. Valentine over Lupercalia, a festival honoring Romulus and Remus, the mythical founders of Rome,

associated with fertility, a precursor to Valentine's Day as a day of love and romance.

My point is not to open a debate on pagan origins of Christian practices. Rather, it is to call our attention to the ways in which "things may get fuzzy," and we start consuming one thing instead of another. We may fall into embracing the commercialism of Valentine's Day while only tangentially remembering Saint Valentine, the Roman priest and physician who was killed by Emperor Claudius II.

As for Saint Valentine, it is said that his crime was marrying Christian couples. Emperor Claudius II's desire to maintain a strong army led him to ban marriage. It was his belief that soldiers were unwilling to fight for Rome, not because of the unpopularity of many of his campaigns, but because of their attachment to family life. His solution was to ban marriages. Soldiers would not be distracted by spouses and children, and would be more willing to fight, or so he thought. St. Valentine managed to find ways to secretly perform weddings for Christian couples. Once found, his fate was sealed. Most likely on February 14, around the year 278 A.D., Saint Valentine was beheaded. This puts a different spin on the season's question: "Would you be my Valentine?"



INSTITUTION OF OUR RECTOR



Sue Brueckner prepares candles for the celebration.



Our Bishop, clergy, three choirs, family and supporters gather for the Celebration of New Ministry.



Kathleen Munter, Chris Wilde and Bruce Rudin, representing the Profile & Search Committees, present a book of prayers.



Our new rector with Bishop Carlye Hughes and John Garde distribute communion.



Our own Dr. Anne Matlack and organist Christopher Jennings (St. John on the Mountain) oversee the musical offerings.



Even the kids join in the celebration!



The Ironside-Moore family.



More photos on Facebook:
"Grace Episcopal Church—Madison, NJ"

Thank you to Chris Cullen and Dora Monserrate for the beautiful photos.

EXPERIENCE GRACE

Chili Lovin' Crowd

Many put their chili to the taste test on January 5 in the Grace's Annual Chili Cook-Off, but just three were awarded the top prize: 3rd place went to Rob Frazer, 2nd place to Wendy Nunn, and John Goodman was crowned the coveted chili-hat awarded 1st place!

Thank you to organizers Judy Honohan and Randi Albiston (pictured bookending the winners.)



ST. PATRICK'S DAY Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Sunday, March 17, 5:00-7:00 pm
Eat in, take out, or delivery (with advance orders)
Adults \$20 Children \$7 Family Max \$75
Walk-ins welcome as available.
Sign up on the main board in Grace Lobby.

First Fridays

Potluck starts at 6:15 pm;
presentation begins at 7:00 pm.

Film Noir—March 1



Still from 'The Big Combo' (1955)

A Noir Tale's Best for Winter*

Take a stroll through a damp, dark cityscape as vintage film fan Christine Cullen presents a lighthearted overview of the film genre known as 'Film Noir'. Characterized by a cynical outlook, a pervasive sense of calamity, as well as a distinctive visual style, Film Noir represents mature cinematic storytelling. Sign-up is on main bulletin board in Grace Lobby.

*a paraphrase of Shakespeare, from *The Winter's Tale*.



Need to finish your craft project? Pack up your supplies and join **The Craft Guild**.

They gather every Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the library. Drop in anytime—you are sure to finish your project and enjoy a great conversation too!

YOUTH

Pizza-Making and Compline for Kids

Held on the first Wednesday of the Month 5:30–7:00 pm. Our next Compline is on February 6. Kids age 3-10 and their parents are welcome to meet at 5:30 in the kitchen to make pizza together, do an outreach craft, and eat together with Dr. Elias and Fr. Michel.

After dinner, we join together for a child-friendly evening worship service at 6:30 pm. This service is participatory—there are lots of opportunities for the kids to lead the service. If your child would like to play an instrument for the offertory, speak with Dr. Anne.



Boy Scout Recognition

Boy Scout Sunday is Sunday, February 10! All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts (and leaders!) are encouraged to wear their uniforms and help us celebrate their commitment to this service organization. We will have a special prayer during the 10:00 am service to recognize their dedication.

Next month, we will be honoring the Girl Scout Sunday on March 10.



FELLOWSHIP

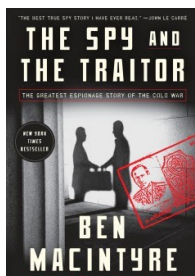
Women’s of Grace Book Group

Third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in Nieman Annex.

Join us on February 18 to discuss Louise Erdrich’s *Future Home of the Living God*—a chilling dystopian novel both provocative and prescient ... a moving meditation on female agency, self determination, biology, and natural rights that speaks to the troubling changes of our time. All are welcome to join the conversation.

Want to read ahead?

March’s selection is *The Bridal Chair* by Gloria Goldreich.



Men’s Book Group

Third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm, at member’s homes.

February’s selection is *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben MacIntyre and will meet at Frank Mangravite’s house. All are welcome; contact Bruce Rudin with any questions and for directions: (973) 214-5359 brucedora@verizon.net.

S R . HIGH

Finally, in January, after the holidays and many of our High Schoolers’ activities ended, we began meeting again, each Sunday after the 10 a.m. service. We started with something fun, a Make-Your-Own-Taco night, gathering in the Grace Kitchen with our new “Mentors” (Arthur and Brian Brooks), and two parents (Mary Lea Crawley and Kathleen Hower Munter).

Our focus this year is on some study, some theological thinking and discussion ... and, some fun. To that end, we’ve been meeting and planning the balance of the Program Year. We’re hoping to gather the first Sunday each month (starring February 3) in the kitchen during our regular time and bake bread together. Our next activity is a planned Snow Tubing, on Friday, February 8, right after Friday Choir practice (depart the Church around 6 p.m.). And there are more “things in the hopper.”

We’ve also begun planning on a pilgrimage for this summer—hopefully at Shepherd’s Spring in Maryland in July. There we hope to learn about and deal with food insecurity, and possibly continue our pilgrimage to the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. We’re also planning on some fundraising activities to support the pilgrimage (i.e., Pi Day, flower sale, assisting at the Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner).

All High School Youth are invited to join us ... and to help spread the word. If you have questions, contact Fr. Michel.



O U T R E A C H



February 3—make this a Souper Sunday! Look for our youth who will be collecting non-perishable food items and money for local food banks. Please be generous. ~ Fr. Michel



On Tuesday, February 19, Grace Church will provide meals and serve at the Community Soup Kitchen. Servers, certified kitchen workers and food donors are needed. Volunteer guidelines and a sign-up sheet are posted on the main bulletin board in Grace Lobby. Volunteers must register by February 11. Thanks for your help! For more information, contact Kirk Nixon: kirknixon1103@gmail.com.



Ongoing Collections

Drop off in the shopping cart in Grace Lobby.

Non-perishable food such as soups, tuna, peanut butter, for Trinity Church’s food bank in Dover.

Baby and toddler supplies for North Porch—Women & Infants’ Center. There is always need for Enfamil, diapers sizes 4, 5, 6, Pull-ups (all sizes), and baby wipes.

Furniture and housewares for Re-start Ministry. Call Nancy Willis to make arrangements, at (973) 610-2325.

Musical Instruments — all types for children in Haiti through outreach “Love Takes Root.” Contact: Crary Brooks

WANTED:

little shampoos & tiny soaps

During the month of February, we will be collecting travel-size toiletries which will be assembled into kits and distributed to the homeless in NYC and NJ by *Bridges Outreach*. Please drop off donations in the bin in Grace Lobby. Travel-size items needed: soap, shampoo, deodorant, body lotion, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss.

This effort is organized by the Madison YMCA. Have questions? Contact: Gwen Riddick, Engagement YMCA at (973) 822-9622 x2235



To learn more about *Bridges Outreach*: bridgesoutreachnj.org



A Holiday Thank You to Grace

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports there are 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.

Refugee Assistance Morris Partners (RAMP) is a local community organization formed in 2016 to help address this humanitarian crisis by assisting vetted Middle Eastern and other refugee families transition to productive lives of dignity, safety, and hope in the Morris County area. Currently, RAMP supports 12 individuals in three families who come from war-torn countries.

We are most grateful to Grace for its ongoing support of this organization and its mission. The Restart Ministry and Outreach Committee has provided crucial, needed assistance. In 2017, and again this recent holiday season, our families were the recipients of

the generosity of many Grace parishioners who selected their wish list items from the Angel Tree.

Our families are from Syria and Afghanistan and are Muslims; consequently, they do not celebrate Christmas. However, we explained to them that it is our custom to give gifts to others during this season. We had the pleasure of delivering the presents from Grace to the three RAMP families, and the gift cards to the parents were incredibly generous. It was Grace’s Angel Tree shoppers who made this happen.

RAMP is so appreciative of the assistance received from Grace Church. As members of this organization, we want to thank you for your kindness and generosity to these three families who are trying to rebuild their lives in the United States.

~ Kirk and Sue Nixon

GRACE COUNSELING CENTER

Exercise: Improves depression, anxiety, and stress

Susan P. Chrystal, M. Div., MBA, LP

Did you just make a resolution to exercise more this year? Maybe you're trying to lose weight, or get a "beach-ready body" by this summer. But did you know that exercising just twice a week can really improve your mental health? It's well established that exercise can alleviate or even prevent depression, relieve anxiety, and improve the symptoms of ADHD. It also reduces stress, improves memory, and boosts your overall mood. No matter how old you are or what your fitness level is, exercise can be a powerful tool to make you feel better.

How much exercise is enough to make a difference? Perhaps less than you might think. A large-scale study, published in August, suggests that only two hours of exercise per week is enough to make a significant impact. The study found that people who

exercised for a moderate amount of time (about 45 minutes per session) reported improved mental health. Similarly, those who worked out 3-5 times per week felt better than those who exercised every day or those who didn't exercise at all.

Almost any kind of physical activity is good for your body and your brain. Team sports, cycling, aerobic or gym exercises were all associated with better mental health. Interestingly, mindfulness exercises like yoga and tai chi were also helpful. All kinds of exercise have a beneficial effect on the brain, from increasing feel-good chemicals (endorphins) to even building brain connections (neurogenesis).

You don't have to force yourself to do long workouts to improve your mental health! Even small changes can get you on track to feeling better physically and mentally.



Free Workshop

Your relationship can thrive in retirement!

February 11, 7:30-8:30 pm, Presenter: Susan Chrystal, M.Div.

Retirement is a new chapter in your life in many ways. You're saying goodbye to your old job, but you're also juggling new interests and different responsibilities—and beginning a new phase of your most significant relationship. Just in time for Valentine's Day, this workshop will help you learn how to deal with the pitfalls and opportunities of your new life together. Space is limited, please call to reserve a seat.

The Grace Counseling Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to a mission focused on relieving emotional suffering and empowering positive change in the lives of individuals, couples, families and groups.

16 MADISON AVENUE, MADISON NJ
(973) 822-0707 www.gracecounseling.org

HOLY DAYS

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Saturday, February 2
8:15 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite I

ST. MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Monday, February 25
5:30 pm
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

ASH WEDNESDAY

First Day of Lent
Wednesday, March 6
9:30 am Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite I

12:15 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite II, organ

5:30 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite I

7:00 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite II, choirs
Children's Program at 5:30 and 7:00 pm



NEXT BAPTISMAL DATE

Great Vigil of Easter,
Saturday, April 20, at 7:00 pm.

If you are interested, speak with one of our clergy or call the office at (973) 377-0106.



Poinsettia Brigade

A heartfelt thank-you goes to those who cheerfully delivered the lovely Christmas poinsettias to parishioners. A round of applause goes to: Ginger Maione, Barbara Montague, Beverly Wand, Katie Harter, Angela Finley, Nancy Gates (Dave, too), Janet Molstad, Eleanor Rawitz (both grandchildren and Mike), Stacy Wilde and Evangeline Tross! This was quite a team and one of the fastest delivery times yet!

Many thanks to Judy Honohan who took such good care of all the beautiful poinsettias and arranged them so nicely in the library for us to take to each recipient. ~ Peggy Oakes



Join the Confirmation class and Fr. Michel for the service to honor **The Rev. Absalom Jones** who was the first person of African descent ordained a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church, on Sunday, February 10, 3:00 pm at Trinity & St. Philips Cathedral in Newark. All are welcome!



Grace Church Financial Report

This report covers from January 1-November 30, 2018.

Total Income:

Budgeted Amount: \$ 712,237

Actual Amount: \$ 667,677

Actual Amount is Under Budget: (\$ 44,560)

Again this month there is no primary contributor to the budget underrun, all income categories are near the budgeted, varying only by a little amount. Plate Offerings, however, are below the budgeted amount by \$5,129. The bottom line was also hindered by the Auction being delayed, and income not being recorded yet.

Total Expenses:

Budgeted Amount: \$ 862,948

Actual Amount: \$ 829,522

Actual Amount is Under Budget: (\$ 33,426)

There is no primary contributor to this underrun. Many expense items are right at or near budget, or are unevenly "loaded" due to programmatic requirements, time when payments are due, or other circumstances (i.e., last winter's snowplowing) beyond our control .

Net Ordinary Income: \$ 667,677

Total Expenses: \$ 829,522

Net Ordinary Income: (\$ 161,845)

Endowment Income Applied: \$ 129,540

Net Income: (\$ 32,305)

Summary:

We continue in a deficit mode as the year draws to a close. As of November 30, 2018, we have spent \$33,426 less than we anticipated, based on our 2018 budget. Since we originally forecast a deficit budget (\$18,359), the fact that we are under budget on expenses means we continue to watch expenditures carefully. The Vestry will continue to watch both income and expenses, and if funds are received as they normally are at year-end, we still believe we should end 2018 in the positive.

GRACE-AT-A-GLANCE

Fri., Feb. 1	6:15 pm 7:00 pm	First Friday Potluck Topic: 'Brain Training'
Feb. 1 & 2		Diocesan Convention, <i>Hilton, Meadowlands</i>
Sun., Feb. 3	9-11:30 am	Collection for Souper Bowl of Caring
Wed., Feb. 6	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Pizza-Making for Compline, <i>Kitchen</i> Compline for Kids Service, <i>Church</i>
Fri., Feb. 8	5:30 pm	Senior High Snow Tubing, <i>Campgaw Mountain</i>
Sun., Feb. 10		Annual Meeting Sunday—No 6:00 pm service All are encouraged to attend a morning service and the Parish Meeting at 11:30 am.
	10:00 am	Boy Scout Sunday, wear your uniform!
	11:30 am	Annual Parish Meeting, <i>Grace Hall</i> <i>Babysitting available in nursery.</i>
	3:00 pm	Absalom John Service with Confirmation Class <i>Trinity & St. Philips Cathedral, Newark</i>
Sun., Feb. 17	9:00 am	Buildings and Grounds Committee, <i>Grace Hall</i> Note: <i>date change due to Annual Meeting</i>
Mon., Feb. 18		President's Day— <i>Parish Office closed</i>
Fri., March 1	6:15 pm 7:00 pm	First Friday Potluck Topic: "Film Noir" with Chris Cullen
Sat., March 2	11:00 am 7:30 pm	Funeral for Libby Elmendorf Harmonium Chamber Singers <i>Swan Song</i> at Grace Church
Tues., March 5	5:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, <i>Grace Hall</i>
Sun., March 10	10:00 am	Girl Scout Sunday

Ongoing Gatherings

Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi, <i>Grace Hall</i>
1 st Monday	7:00 pm	Mindfulness for Adults, <i>Senior High Room</i>
1 st Monday	7:00 pm	Pastoral Care, <i>Nieman Hall</i>
3 rd Monday	7:00 pm	Women of Grace Book Group, <i>Nieman Annex</i>
3 rd Monday	7:30 pm	Finance Committee, <i>Library</i>
4 th Monday	7:30 pm	Vestry Meeting, <i>Nieman Hall</i>
Tuesdays	7:30 pm	Craft Guild, <i>Library</i>
3 rd Tuesday	7:30 pm	Men's Book Group, <i>call Bruce Rudin for details</i>
3 rd Tuesday "even" months		Grace's Day at Community Soup Kitchen
Wednesdays	10:15 am noon	Women's Meditation & Centering, <i>Library</i> AA (Men's Group), <i>Grace Hall</i>
2 nd and 4 th Wed.	7:30 pm	Survivors of Suicide, <i>Library</i>
Thursdays	6:00-9:30 pm	Teen & Adult Choirs, <i>Choir Room</i>
Fridays	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Waverly Place Restaurant</i>
	3:30-5:30 pm	Chapel and School Choir, <i>Choir Room</i>

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4 MADISON AVE, MADISON NJ 07940

PHONE: (973) 377-0106

www.GraceMadison.org

Clergy and Officers

The Rev. Susan R. Ironside,
Rector, ext. 112
sironside@gracemadison.org

The Rev. Canon Michel Belt
Priest Associate, ext. 113
mbelt@gracemadison.org

John Garde, *Warden*

Tom Honohan, *Warden*

Vestry

Laura Norwalk	Beth McKeever
Bendelius	Dora Monserrate
Ruth Deane	Kirk Nixon
Heather	Sam Partridge
Crimmins-Fraser	Evangeline Tross
Doug Harter	Melissa Waterstredt
Michael Ling	

Parish Staff

Kit Cone, *Senior Verger and Sacristan*
kcone@gracemadison.org

Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, ext. 115
Children's Ministry
eaponte@gracemadison.org

Dr. Anne Matlack
Choirmaster and Organist
(201) 274-4617
amatlack@gracemadison.org

J. Eric Roper, *Assistant Choir Director and Gargoyles Director*
JohnEricRoper@gmail.com

Linda Bowden, *Chapel Choir Director*
LindaBowden49@gmail.com

Katie Hendrix, *Children's Choir Assistant*
kehendrix7@gmail.com

Michael Kostial, *Parish Administrator*
mkostial@gracemadison.org, ext. 110

Susie Harris, *Communications*
sharris@gracemadison.org, ext. 111

Susan Steel, *Bookkeeper*
ssteel@gracemadison.org