



The Messenger May 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the purposes of The Church is changing lives for the better. Forming faith for a closer relationship with God is the primary reason we are at the corner of Stephenson and Cherry for nearly 150 years. Our worship lifts us to the presence of God when singing, praying, listening, and receiving the sacraments through fellowship with one another.

However, current culture expects dazzling, regular improvements in the “stuff of our lives”. The concept of steady, patient, progress is out of step with the fast pace whirling about us. Whatever we think we want...we want it NOW!

Grace Church will soon have a new priest-in-charge. During the interim, the parish has held together quite well but I suspect many are tired of waiting for this next chapter. (diminished attendance may be attributed to this.) We hope Fr. Prall will “hit the ground running” but you know it will take some time to adjust both for him and yourselves.

Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, is May 20. This feast marking the descent on the Holy Spirit upon the disciples is celebrated as the birthday of the Church. As the Gospel was preached with power, many became believers. They gathered in ever-growing groups to praise God, hear the Word of God and receive the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation.

The Holy Spirit brings Christ's resurrection power (which we call Grace) to sustain us, guide us, and send us forth renewed and re-deemed that we might share the Good News of God in Christ. Each of us is given some spiritual gift which can build up the Church when shared for the sake of others as we enjoy its benefits ourselves.

We are all on a Mission for God. Through our thoughts, words and deeds, we have a ministry to offer to one another, to the community around us and indeed to the whole world.

Sincerely,
Fr Tom Rosa, interim

From The Warden

REKEYING CHURCH LOCKS Vestry approved contracting with Freeport Glass to rekey all locks on church doors, both inside and out. This will happen during the early part of May and all those needing a key will be contacted by the office.

CHURCH KITCHEN/REGULATIONS Duane Eilders from the Stephenson County Health Department was asked to come and look at our kitchen and discuss required regulations for serving meals in a church. On April 12 he met with Steve McMillen, Connie Burden, Candy Colby, Church Terpening, Connie Olson and Peggy Isaac. We learned that there are no regulations when serving our own congregation, but when we open to the public, such as the community meal and the Red Door Bazaar soup luncheon, guidelines must be followed. A permit needs to be secured from the Health Department and the necessary rules and regulations followed. This was discussed a few days later at the April vestry meeting, and a unanimous decision was made to suspend the community meals for the summer and revisit this subject in the fall. The sinks, plumbing, counter space and dishwasher all need major improvements. A decision needs to be

as to what makes sense, is within our budget and complies with building codes and health Department requirements. We will follow-up with this later in the summer/early fall.

SPECIAL BRUNCH On Sunday, May 20 we will have a brunch following the 9:00 service to say thank you to Fr. Rosa, Fr. Bro and Fr. Lamb for taking such good care of us during this interim period. Please plan to attend.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY We have set two times for open house at the rectory. The house will be open on Sunday, May 20 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p. m. (following the coffee hour for Fr. Rosa, Fr. Bro and Fr. Lamb). And then again on Monday, May 21 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. It will be a time for you to walk through the rectory and see the wonderful changes and improvements that have been made...I am sure you will be proud of 1414 Lincoln Blvd. which will become home to our new Rector and his family in June.

ORDINATION The Rev. Brian Prall will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday morning, June 16 at St. James Cathedral in Chicago. We plan on having transportation available for anyone interested in attending, so watch for more details within the next few weeks.

Fr. Prall will officiate at his first Holy Eucharist on Sunday, June 17 and we will have a celebration in St. Stephen's Hall following the service. Again, please watch for more details as we get closer to the date.

ENERGY AUDIT on May 25, Faith in Place, a company out of Chicago, will be here to do an energy audit at our church building. An energy audit will be done at the rectory at a late time.

Notes from Grace's Greens:

Thanks to everyone who supports our use of bird friendly coffee – by purchasing this coffee we not only protect vital habitat for migrating songbirds but also help smaller coffee producers, their families and communities. The company we buy from, Birds and Beans, saved the Smithsonian's Bird Friendly® certification for shade grown and organic coffee, the platinum guarantee of true sustainability in coffee farming. A recent email from one of the founders of Birds and Beans, Bill Wilson, stated the following:

“We buy from over 2,000 family farms in Latin America supporting strong viable rural communities and maintaining over 100,000 acres of prime bird habitat and bio-diversity.

We opened up Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Americas, as a Bird Friendly coffee producing zone for significant benefit to tropical forest protection, bird conservation and family farmers and their workers.

This has all been accomplished through truly fair trade and on a people-to-people basis – everyone in our circle gets a fair payment or wage. This means the customers that buy our coffee at a fair price are supporting a 100% sustainable agricultural and distribution system.

When Scott Weidensaul and I started on our mission in 2008 we did so because we saw that the Bird Friendly coffee certification, critical to tropical bird habitat, was failing. We knew this to be important to the migratory birds we love. What we discovered along the way is that it is just as important to the people in traditional coffee farming. Without them as stewards of the land, as their ancestors have been for over a century, the whole system collapses. This includes the rural people in the coffee lands and the future of their children.”

If you feel purchasing bird friendly coffee is worthwhile and you enjoy coffee, please consider donating a dollar or two to the coffee hour fund. Thank you!

An update – Faith in Place will be conducting a free energy audit at Grace on Wednesday, May 2. They will be suggesting low or no-cost ways to save energy and money. Faith in Place is the Illinois branch of Interfaith Light and Power, a national organization. Faith in Place works to inspire faithful people to care for the Earth through four program areas: Energy & Climate Change, Sustainable Food & Land Use, Water Preservation, and Advocacy.

- The presence of God has picked me up and swung me like a bell.
—Annie Dillard
- Faith doesn't get you around trouble; it gets you through it.
—Anonymous
- When we are true to our conscience ... God's kingdom comes to us just where we are, living quite ordinarily, carrying on patiently.
—Karl Rahner
- I believe that nothing I deserve to be ashamed of will ever make me unacceptable to God.
—Lewis B. Smedes
- I've learned that it is just as important to forget a wrong as it is to remember a kindness.
—Anonymous

Bits and Pieces

Mental Health First Aid Training

Tuesdays, May 1st and May 8th from 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Cost is \$20.00. Location is a CONTACT office meeting room near Cannova's

If interested please call Pam Werntz at 815-821-4653 by April 26th. Pam is director of CONTACT.

ECW Spring Rummage Sale will take place on Friday, May 4th from 8:00am until 1:00pm, and Saturday May 5th from 8:00am until noon. We will need help during the sale and on Thursday, May 3rd, starting at 9:00am to get things set up. This has been an important event for the parish as it allows us to declutter out homes of unneeded items and offer them to our "shoppers" at very reasonable prices. Win-Win! The proceeds support programs within and outside our church. All items left over are donated to the Salvation Army. Please bring items to the church on Sunday, April 28th, or during office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, May 1st-3rd. If you have any questions, please email or call me: cburden43@gmail.com or 815-789-3181.

Thank you, Connie B.

UTO Ingathering Sunday, May 6th will be the Ingathering collected by our Grace ECW for the United Thank Offering (UTO). There will be envelopes in the May Messenger and at church on May 6th for your donations to support the many wonderful Christ inspired works the UTO supports in our world. Please be generous in your sharing as you consider all your blessings.
Thankfully, Phyllis

Volunteers needed to put the final touch to getting the rectory ready for our new priest and his family. We will be doing light house cleaning, floors and windows. We will be doing the work the week of May 14-19. If interested in helping, please talk to or call Carol Price, 815-541-5536. Thank you!

Open House at the Rectory

Sunday, May 20th from 11:00am to 2:00pm
Monday, May 21st from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

From the Treasurer ~

At the end of March we were \$6,170.17 behind in 2018-pledge income. It would be very nice if by June 1st we would be current with our pledge income, as Fr. Prall will be arriving. If you are out of town, just drop a check in the mail to Grace Episcopal Church, 10 South Cherry, Freeport, IL 61032.

As I was looking over the budget the other day I noticed a mixed blessing. Nearly every member has pledged. This is a blessing. However, when that happens it is not unusual for plate offerings to drop. Plate offerings are the dollars and cents that get dropped in the collection plate. We budgeted \$2,800.00 for plate offerings this year. January through March we received a total of \$93.00 in plate offering. So I got to thinking. If I took 52, the number of weeks in a year and multiplied it by \$1.00 I would have \$52.00. If I now multiplied \$52.00 by 50 persons I would have \$2,600.00. Well, I just got all kinds of excited! Could we each commit \$1.00 per week to our offering plate?! Perhaps it could be in appreciation for one significant moment that occurred during the previous week. Anyway, it is a thought. I am committing. Please consider joining with me.

Heidi Downing, Treasurer

**Gain & Loss Budget Performance
Month Ending March 31, 2018**

Giving Income:

<u>March 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – March '18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
5,937.00	12,405.19	65,671.00*	37,215.29

Total Income:

<u>March 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – March '18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
6,337.59	12,792.70	74,341.30	63,377.70

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>March 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – March '18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
8,551.22	3,384.88	18,643.45	33,036.08

Total All Expenses:

<u>March 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – March '18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
13,825.06	15,105.15	39,780.40	71,347.57

Vanguard Endowment Income:

<u>March 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – March '18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00

Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>
44,642.12	6,637.27	29,443.40	498,696.53

*Includes pre paid pledges.



ECW Rummage Sale Friday, May 4th from 8:00am to 1:00pm and Saturday, May 5th from 8:00am to noon. Setup will be Thursday, May 3rd starting at 9:00am.

Building and Grounds Meeting Tuesday, May 8th at 1:15pm in St. Stephen's Hall.

Men of Grace Breakfast Saturday, May 19th, 8:00am at 9 East. All people of Grace Church are welcome.

Vestry Meeting Saturday, May 19th at 10:00am

Reception for interim rectors Sunday, May 20th after the 9:00am service.

Open House at Rectory:

Sunday, May 20th from 11:00am to 2:00pm

Monday, May 21st from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

May



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1st | Jeremy Sigafus | 11th | Marsha Holden |
| | Frank Furst | 16th | Sarah Marten |
| 2nd | Cheri Haack | 20th | Bruce Helm |
| 3rd | Arneta Reining | 21st | Lynn Davis |
| 4th | Susan Bokemeier | | Richard Connors |
| 6th | Gabriella Hornung | 24th | Don Isaac |
| 10th | Erich Moderow | 28th | George Davis |
| 11th | Albert Appiah | 30th | Zhenya Bolotnik |

5th Mark & Karen Moderow

Deadline for the June Messenger will be May 22nd

Grace Episcopal Church
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The Grace
of God is
with you!

May Newsletter