



The Messenger July 2018

Rector's Corner

On behalf of Ellen, Lucy, and the doggies, we would like to thank you all so very much for the amazing talent, as well as time and treasure, you invested into making the rectory a beautiful home. I called Ellen while she was still back in Texas and told her it looked so lovely that I was afraid to hammer any fixtures into the walls. Also, the purveyor of the tile inside the front door and in front of the fire place unwittingly matched the color scheme of the furniture we had already ordered for that front room. It's like it was meant to be.

Then there was the welcome wagon, or caravan as the case may be. You provided treats and veterinarian recommendations for my dogs, park district discounts and information for Lucy, a tremendous basket of gift cards to all the Freeport hotspots assembled by the ECW, and a kitchen stocked with bachelor/dad/terrible cook friendly foods. A survival kit until Ellen got here, if you will. Oh, and the Gungels dropped off cookie bars with dark chocolate, which is my absolute favorite, and I wish I could say I saved some for Ellen, but I did not.

Your love and attention to the rectory and to our settling in is a testament to your love and commitment to Grace Church and her mission. If I have not expressed this enough, I am honored to have been called to be a part of it. At some point, probably in the late summer or early fall when we have all of our stuff out of boxes and in some semblance of order, Ellen and I would like show our gratitude by inviting all of you to an open house. I know you just recently had one so think of it as a before-and-after, or as the open house with things to sit on. Anyway, details to come.

I would also like to take a moment to thank you for coming to my ordination. It was deeply touching to look out from the altar on Saturday and see two or three pews of St. James Cathedral occupied by the Freeport delegation. A special thanks is due to Marsha Holden and all co-conspirators for the delightful reception the next day. I am a sucker for baklava. Log that one away in your memory banks. Thank you as well for the gifts for my family and me. People, especially in clergy circles, can get so cynical about “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You” signs, but you all embodied it and my parents commented on that. You also officially did more for my dad on Father’s Day than I did, so thank you for making me look bad.

In the coming weeks I would love to get to know each of you better, as well as answer any questions you might have about me. I want to know your stories: where you’re from, what vocations you’ve had, how you arrived at Grace Church, what makes you stay, hopes for the future, how you see God working in your life, places to avoid eating in Freeport, etc. You know, easy stuff. My regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. I would like to invite you to set a time with me to visit, either in the church office or at a local coffee or ice cream establishment.

If you are unable to meet within my regularly scheduled hours, that is perfectly fine. I would be happy to find a time that is convenient for you.

My family and I are excited to be with you, and we look forward to our time together in worship and service of the living God. Many blessings to you this summer and safe travels to any who may be going on vacation.

Peace,
Fr. Brian



**FACC FIFTH SUNDAY
IS
JULY 29TH**

Thank you for your cash or check (made out to Grace Episcopal with FACC on memo line) donations!

From the Wardens

Well, what an exciting month this has been. The Rev. Brian Prall, his wife Ellen and daughter Lucy are indeed living at 1414 Lincoln Blvd. and Brian is the full-time priest-in-charge at Grace Church. In fact, I saw Lucy's picture in the Freeport Journal Standard already..... Lucy was attending a program at the library.....they indeed, are already part of the Freeport community.

A group of parishioners attended Brian's ordination to the priesthood at the cathedral in Chicago on June 16. They reported that it was an amazing day and they were so proud to be present. We had a lovely brunch back here at Grace after church on the 17th. It was Ellen's first Sunday with us since moving back from Texas, and we were also so happy that Brian's parents were with us. A joyful day for everyone.

Our first vestry meeting with Fr. Prall was held on the 24th. All went well, there was quite a bit of business, but we got through it in good time and enjoyed meeting together. Earlier in the week his office in the church had taken on water during one of the recent down-pours. But he was up to the task, he moved furniture, was awesome with the shop-vac and took care of getting the office back in shape in good time. Now, we must do some investigating and find the cause and get it fixed....the Building and Grounds Committee is working on that.

The wardens and vestry look forward to the next months as we begin this new journey together.

Candy & Peggy

From the Treasurer ~

2018 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending May, 2018

Giving Income:

<u>May 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
5,841.00	12,405.19	86,482.00	62,175.67

Vanguard Endowment Income:

<u>May 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 2018</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	0.00	29,000.00	29,000.00

Total Income:

<u>May 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
6,039.73	12,792.70	113,595.18	93,113.10

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>May 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
12,639.51	8,655.38	40,488.45	44,176.34

Total All Expenses Including Rector:

<u>May 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
19,113.77	21,375.65	74,739.55	108,137.12

Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>
60,065.06	6,597.27	29,443.40	487,606.81

News from Grace's Greens

Join Grace's Greens for a canoe/kayak outing on the beautiful Rock River on Saturday, July 14 (see John's announcement in this issue of The Messenger) followed by a potluck meal afterwards at John and Allison Gush's riverfront home. If you prefer not to go on the river, please join us for the potluck. Thanks to John and Allison for arranging and hosting!

Grace's Greens will be taking a break from meetings for the summer. We'll resume in the fall under the leadership of Allison Gush. Allison is a dedicated member of GG and she and John have contributed much time and energy and many good ideas. Plan to join us as we continue to work to care for the miraculous gift of planet Earth.

The energy audit of the rectory has been completed by Commonwealth Edison. They replaced light bulbs with LEDs, installed a smart thermostat and provided a smart power strip. If you're a ComEd customer, plan to schedule this very worthwhile service for your home. Call 1-855-433-2700.

Eco-Tip: Switch from liquid hand soap to bar soap.

- Liquid soap is no more hygienic than bar soap (according to authorities such as the Mayo Clinic).
- Liquid soap requires 5 times more energy to produce, comes with up to 20 times more packaging and is heavier and less efficient to ship, contributing to a much larger carbon footprint.
- Choose a bar soap made from natural ingredients, such as glycerine or castile.
- To keep bar soap from getting gooey, try the recently invented SOAPSTANDLE, a nifty gadget that fits onto a soap bar and elevates it just enough to keep it from getting soggy. (Excerpted from the Sierra Club Green Life blog)

A Prayer for Fellowship

O God, enlarge within us the sense of
fellowship with all living things,
our brothers the animals to whom thou
gavest the earth as their home in
common with us.

We remember with shame that in the past
we have exercised the high dominion of
man with ruthless cruelty
so that the voice of the earth,
which should have gone up to thee
in song, has been a groan to travail.

May we realize that they live not
for us alone but for themselves
and for thee, and that they love the
sweetness of life.

St. Basil the Great, 330-379

Submitted by Candy Colby

Grace Church Information

ECW First Friday Gathering All women of Grace Church are invited to attend our monthly meeting of the ECW which are held most first Fridays of the month. Please bring a sack lunch (coffee and tea are provided) and come at 11:30am. This month, we welcome our new priest, Father Brian Prall. Hope you all can join us. Connie B. 815-789-3181

Rock River Canoe/Kayak Trip Please join Grace's Greens as we explore the Rock River on Saturday, July 14th. We will leave White Pelican Canoe Rental, in Oregon, IL. At 10:30am and paddle as a group down the gentle Rock River to Allison & John Gush's retreat near Castle Rock State Park for a potluck lunch. Lemonade and coffee provided.

Paddle past white pines and sandstone bluffs in a canoe or kayak. Life jackets and instructions are provided. The cost is \$40 for a canoe (2-3 adults), \$30 for a single kayak, \$40 for a double kayak.

If you prefer not to paddle, you are welcome to join us for the lunch at 2783 Brooks Isle Rd, Oregon, IL. 61061. For further details call Allison or John at 815-493-2505, email jrgush@gmail.com or go to White Pelican at whitepelican.biz We need to know numbers by July 1 to reserve boats.

Weekly Altar Flowers There are several Sundays that are still open. Sign up sheet is in the narthex. The cost of flowers is \$29.00. Families are welcome to share a Sunday. When you sign up for flowers you are responsible for paying for them. Sometime during the month you are signing up for weekly flowers turn in a check for \$29.00 (made out to Grace Episcopal Church). You can put this in the offering plate, turn in to the office or mail to the church. Just indicate on the check that it is for altar flowers.

WANTED - Acolytes

Grace Church needs your help. We are going to be down 40% of our acolytes when Noah and Becca leave for college in August. So, we are in need of additional members to step up and help. Assisting in this role during our services is open to all. If you are willing to help, please contact Carol Francis at 815-335-2266 or Connie on the church office.



ECW First Friday Lunch Friday, July 6th at 11:30am. Bring your sack lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

Endowment Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 10th at 10:00am

Building and Grounds Meeting Tuesday, July 10th at 1:15pm

Vestry Meeting Sunday, July 15th after the 9:00am service.

Men of Grace Breakfast Saturday, July 21st, 8:00am at 9 East. All men of Grace Church are welcome.



July

3rd Allyson Dahms
Amy Spellman
4th Ann Elmer
5th Zach Peterson
6th Owen Helm

8th Bob Dahms
11th Deborah Grunder
13th Pam Waller
19th Martha Furst

11th Skip & Mary Lehnhard
Tony & Nicole Bolotnik
19th John & Elizabeth Woodward

Deadline for the August “Messenger” will be July 20th.

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July Newsletter