

## *The Messenger* *August 2018*

### *Rector's Corner*

The 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church held in Austin, Texas (home of the greatest Episcopal seminary in all the land) has come and gone. A number of resolutions were addressed, in fact a record number. The issues that were most prevalent on Episcopal news outlets were the readmission of the Diocese of Cuba, prayer book revision, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, marriage rites, and immigration. I will do my best to provide an adequate summary so you are aware of what your Church is discerning as it moves forward and how it has listened to the Holy Spirit in determining ways it can best be a witness to Christ in the world. I would still encourage you to visit the Episcopal News Service's website where you may read full coverage of the proceedings, and I also recommend that you subscribe to ENS's email updates, which is free of charge, so that you may keep abreast of the goings-on in our beloved Church.

The parliamentary proceedings of General Convention can be a bit mystifying, like the doctrine of the Trinity. This is reflected in the comment sections of the articles on ENS where proponents of both sides of any given issue are equally angry for reasons they cannot quite explain. I do not actually recommend reading these comments. Cynics and fair-weather Episcopalians, everyone of 'em. But given the complexity of some of the issues addressed, let's start with an easy one. Cuba is back!

Resolution A238 officially readmits the Diocese of Cuba back into the Episcopal Church after having been removed back in 1966. The previous General Convention in 2015 gave the Diocese of Cuba a number of benchmarks for compliance in order to obtain readmission, and it has successfully accomplished each. Passage of this resolution was met with great rejoicing throughout the convention and the wider church community.

Revision of the *Book of Common Prayer* was one of the more contentious issues debated at General Convention. The revisions being sought with Resolution A068 would provide more inclusive and expansive language and imagery for both humanity and divinity, which would mean substituting the overwhelmingly masculine text with gender-neutral language. It was also requested that the liturgy have language that was more reflective of a deep reverence for the earth and creation. The House of Deputies proposed that such revisions be made and a new book be ready by 2030. The House of Bishops, however, countered with a desire to create a “liturgical and prayer book revision for the future of God’s mission through the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.” This is where I get a little fuzzy on precisely what that means, but the end result is that bishops are encouraged to experiment in their dioceses and report to a task force appointed by Presiding Bishop Curry and the President of the House of Deputies that will gather data and determine the best way forward for prayer book revision. So, stay tuned I guess.

Meanwhile, Resolution D078 allows for the trial use of alternative language for Eucharistic Prayers A, B, and D until such time that a new prayer book is available. Replacing ‘Lord’ with ‘God’ and substituting Trinitarian references of ‘Father, Son, and Holy Spirit’ with ‘The Holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity, one God,’ are just a couple of alterations offered in those texts.

In the event that you are still awake and reading this, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict offered another divisive debate. The seemingly endless violence in the region has spurred many in the Church to consider taking a harsher stand on its relations particularly with Israel. Uncomfortable with financial investment in companies complicit in Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, Resolution D019 proposed essentially divesting from Israel. It passed the House of Deputies but was rejected by the House of Bishops on the grounds that divestment would be seen as an accusation towards Israel as sole antagonist, and therefore would be detrimental to Judeo-Christian relations. While Israel certainly has more force, both sides need to be held accountable for the violence, and divestment does not achieve this. Going forward, the Church needs to exercise more caution in who it invests with and it needs to focus on investments with entities that promote humanitarian efforts in the region.

Resolution B012 was passed by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops giving *all* Episcopalians full access to two trial-use marriage rites. The resolution gives the priest/clergy discretion on the use of these rites for both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. Should a same-sex wedding occur in a diocese where a bishop objects to same-sex marriage, the couple, as well as the clergy, may seek pastoral support from a bishop of another diocese should they need it. No clergy can be forced to perform a marriage if it goes against their conscience.

Last but not least, immigration was on the hearts and minds of those at General Convention especially being so close to the border and with there being detention centers in close proximity. In fact, a demonstration of solidarity was staged outside the Hutto detention center where hundreds of Episcopalians flocked to let detainees know they are not alone.

One of my classmates and friend of your former rector Michael Long was instrumental in the organization of this event. Her name is the Rev. Terry Pierce. Resolutions C033, A178, and C009 all dealt with the Episcopal Church's position on immigration, which I encourage you to look up.

Thus endeth my report. If you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to address them either privately or as a group. I do my best digesting of church governance over ice cream.

Peace,  
Fr. Brian

## **Grace Episcopal Church**

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## Warden's Report

This and That

A pretty quiet month at Grace so far. Since the Vestry met twice in June, once for our regular monthly meeting and once to begin talk about our fall stewardship drive, we did not meet in July. Our next meeting will be on our regular third Sunday in August. Have you noticed that our signature red doors have been given a beautiful new coat of paint. They are bright and beautiful once again. Thanks for a great job Chuck Breo.

The Building and Grounds Committee has approved asking for and receiving bids for new landscape and garden plans for the front yard of the church.....the corner of Stephenson and Cherry. It has long needed some attention, and we will take a look at some ways to enhance and beautify the front of our building.

On another fun and interesting note.....if you happen to see a young man riding a bicycle around town who is wearing a baseball cap, a backpack, and a priest's collar.. wave to him.....it probably is our very own Father Brian Prall on his way to work!! What fun is that?.....

Watch for more news and information after the August vestry meeting.

Peggy Isaac - Senior Warden

## Notes from Grace's Greens:

A good time was had by all on our canoe/kayak trip down the Rock River. We enjoyed a lovely potluck lunch afterward at the Gush's. Thanks again, Allison and John, for hosting and organizing, and to all who participated.

Mark the date – On Sunday, August 5, Dan Huntsha from Faith in Place, will be giving a presentation at the coffee hour following the service. Dan was part of the team that did the energy audit for Grace earlier in the year and will explain more about Faith in Place and its work with faith communities all over the country, as well as ways to save energy.

Since last year Grace Church has been serving Birds and Beans coffee for our coffee hours and special events. We chose to go with Birds and Beans because they are one of the few coffee distributors that sell only organic, fair trade, shade grown, bird-friendly coffee. As you may know, many songbird species are undergoing major declines in their populations due to a number of causes, including loss of habitat and climate change. Bird friendly coffee is certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center as providing quality habitat for migratory and local bird populations. It also ensures a living wage to small coffee producers and benefits local communities. Birds and Beans has worked with smaller coffee farmers and was instrumental in opening up Nicaragua, one of the poorest countries in Central America, to coffee farming. If you feel it's worthwhile continuing to purchase Birds and Beans coffee, please contribute a dollar or two to our coffee hour fund on Sundays to help support this effort. Thank you!

## When Is “It” Good?

- If it is organic.
- If it is local.
- If it is small.
- If it produces no solid waste.
- If it produces no air or water pollution.
- If it's biodegradable.
- If it nurtures pollinators.
- If it rebuilds the soil community
- If it gets you out of doors.
- If it's for the common good.
- If no one is harmed by it.
- If it can be reused, repaired, repurposed, recycled.
- If you want your next door neighbor to have it.
- If it builds community.
- If it's hand-operated.
- If it's hand-made.
- If it's quiet.

What else can you think of?

(from the July Creation Care newsletter, edited by Kent Shifferd, with permission)

## ***Grace Church News***

**Thank you** to our church family for you beautiful cards, calls, personal greetings and/or attended our 60th wedding celebration. We are truly blessed.

Neil & Rose Dreier

**Thermostats** - If you **CHANGE** the temperature setting on a thermostat please **RETURN** it to the temperature setting posted.

**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.

## From the Treasurer ~

### 2018 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending June, 2018

#### Giving Income:

| <u>June 2018</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – June18</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 6,509.01         | 12,405.19     | 92,616.01           | 74,580.86         |

#### Vanguard Endowment Income:

| <u>June 2018</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – June 2018</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 0.00             | 0.00          | 29,000.00              | 29,000.00         |

#### Total Income:

| <u>June 2018</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – June 18</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 22,631.03        | 12,792.70     | 135,861.64           | 105,905.80        |

#### Total Building and Grounds Expense:

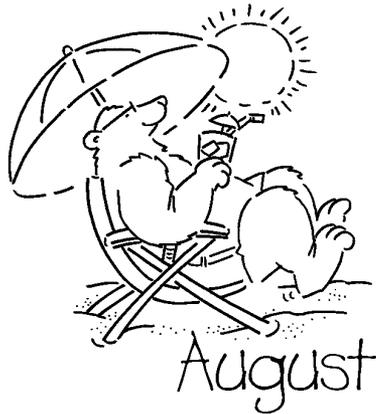
| <u>June 2018</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – June18</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2,727.55         | 2,484.88      | 43,216.00           | 46,661.22         |

#### Total All Expenses Including Rector:

| <u>June 2018</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – June 18</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 22,759.31        | 16,356.09     | 97,498.86            | 124,493.21        |

#### Current Assets:

| <u>Checking</u> | <u>Columbarium</u> | <u>Memorials</u> | <u>Endowment</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 67,994.41       | 6,598.36           | 29,453.16        | 487,606.81       |



***ECW First Friday Lunch*** Friday, August 3rd at 11:30am. Coffee and tea will be provided.

***Building & Grounds Committee*** Tuesday, August 14th, 1:15pm in St. Stephen's Hall.

***Men of Grace Breakfast*** Saturday, August 18th at 8:00am at 9 East. All men of Grace Church are welcome.

***Vestry Meeting*** Sunday, August 19th, 10:30am.

# August



2nd Marissa Routson  
7th Kris Shore  
Charla Spann  
9th Becca Francis  
12th Amanda Mitchell  
17th Connie Burden

21st Curtis Terpening  
24th Jacob Folgate  
Shirlee Iverson  
30th Madalynn Enright  
31st Colin Helm

8th Jon & Laura Watson  
11th Norman & Ingrid Standish  
18th Chuck & Sandy Terpening  
Pat & Mary Lockwood  
19th Wayne & Diane Conroy  
23rd Jack & Candy Colby  
26th John & Connie Burden  
27th Brian & Donna Dreier  
28th Jeremy & Jackie Sigafus  
29th Nicholas & Claudia Smith

**Deadline** for the September "Messenger" will be August 24th

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**JOY!**

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