



The Messenger

October 2018

Rector's Corner

A little more than a year before I shipped off to seminary I took on the Bible Challenge, the program that divides up the entire Bible into daily readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, and the New Testament. In a year of diligent reading, with Sundays being a sabbath day from reading because, presumably, you are in church hearing the Word, it is possible to read the whole Bible, cycling through the Psalms twice along the way.

I successfully completed it, though it was as advertised; a challenge. For one, it might seem like it would not be that difficult to carve out ten to twenty minutes a day to engage in scripture reading, but on a Saturday or when I was on vacation, it was a difficult discipline to maintain. Maintain it, I did. The other reason it was a challenge is because, as scholar Michael L. Satlow observes:

Engaging stories come to a screeching halt at extended genealogies or detailed descriptions of buildings. Lists of peculiar laws, sometimes strung together incoherently, suddenly appear. Stories repeat, but in versions that contradict each other. Admonitions to be kind and compassionate are belied by approving accounts of almost unspeakable cruelty. Beautiful statements are buried in incomprehensible cryptic oracles. The historical narrative lurches back and forth. The Good Book is very hard to read.

Having read all of the Bible, I thought for sure I had a leg up when it came to our Bible courses in seminary. As it turns out, retaining information, especially a few thousand pages written in double columns, is not my strong suit. Classmates would bring up people, places, or episodes from scripture with little to no context as though it were common knowledge, and there I was, the man who had read it all, thinking, “Who in the heck are you talking about?” Scripture reading, like any other Christian practice, is a disciplined and lifelong pursuit.

I was reminded of this when reading Scott Reeder’s op-ed “Bible has become a diminishing reference point,” in the *Journal-Standard*. My immediate reaction was absolute astonishment that an entire generation of people were not picking up on the most basic of references to Noah and the Flood or Jesus’ exchange with Pontius Pilate. After breathing into a paper bag and regaining my composure, I found a little more empathy after recalling the feeling of being out of my league in seminary. I am sure my classmates, many of whom came from Evangelical backgrounds where scripture, not liturgy, is the main focus, were similarly dumbfounded by my lack of knowledge when it came to the Bible.

Often times you will hear it said of Episcopalians that we do not know our Bibles. There was a popular story in seminary of one of the local churches inviting a guest preacher, a Baptist, and in the midst of a friendly theological debate before the service, the good pastor asked his Episcopal colleagues to see a Bible so he could prove his point. They searched high and low, finally locating one in the rector’s office.

It is not that we are a church devoid of scripture. On the contrary, we have scripture throughout the liturgy. Thomas Cranmer, the original composer of the *Book of Common Prayer* back in 1549 used great swaths of scripture in the liturgy, and

what was not taken directly from the Bible had to meet his criteria that it “not be repugnant to scripture”. The problem is, without being well versed in the Bible, we tend to miss the multitude of biblical references built into our own service. I know there are times even now when I will be reading the Daily Office and come across some passage and realize, hey, that is what we say when we . . . So that’s where that came from.

On October 14, we will kick off a new year of Christian Formation after the service. Our first topic will be an overview of the Bible as a whole. What is it? Where did it come from? What was its evolution as it became the book we know today? Part history class, part literature, part sociology, all biblical, we will delve into this ancient and mysterious volume; one Satlow notes, “has become arguably the most important book in the history of human civilization.” At some point, I will also introduce some computer software we used in seminary that can do some amazing things for biblical studies. I do hope you join us on our exploration, and I hope sometime you are able to come to one of our Bible Studies on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 10:00 a.m. when we dig into specific passages. See you then.

Blessings,
Fr. Brian

Back by popular demand, or at least by a few interested folks, we have resurrected the weekly Wednesday evening service at 5:30 p.m. To get us started, we will follow the Order of Worship for the Evening with a Eucharist. We will be utilizing the version found in *Enriching Our Worship I* of the *Supplemental Liturgical Materials*. The service follows the same basic shape as found in *The Book of Common Prayer* on page 109. The only variation really will be in the language, which was a prominent point of focus in the *Enriching Our Worship* (EOW) composition.

Grace Church News & Upcoming Events

All women of Grace Church are invited to our monthly fellowship gathering on the First Friday of the month: October 5th at 11:30am. Please bring your own lunch, coffee and tea will be provided. This month, we will be focusing on preparations for the Red Door Bazaar. We always have a lovely time getting to know one another. You are encouraged to attend.

Bible Study

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light to guide my path” Psalm 119:105

Everyone, yes...EVERYONE is invited to a new Bible Study which will be held at 10:00am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at Grace. Father Brian will be leading us on this journey.

Pet Blessing Sunday October 7th at Noon in the East Parking Lot of Grace Church. Episcopalians have a goodly heritage of celebrating all of God’s creatures. Throughout the country, parishes offer Pet Blessings in October because of the feast day of St Francis of Assisi who used to preach to animals.

Rain or shine, we will gather in the east parking lot for individual pet blessing. Your friends and neighbors are most welcome. We ask that all animals be contained or controlled by their owners, be leashed or in a carrier. A photo will do if your pet is too large or unable to come. There will be water, some treats, and clean-up supplies available under the canopy shelter we will set up. There will be a basket to receive donations of pet food that will then be donated to Friends Forever. Pets, indeed all animals, share this world with us and keep us ever mindful the beauty of God’s bountiful creations.

Building & Grounds Meeting Tuesday, October 9th at 1:15pm.

Men of Grace Breakfast Saturday, October 20th, 8:00am at 9 East. All men of Grace Church are welcome.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, October 21st after the 9:00am service.

Grace to Celebrate Choral Evensong

Our choir and musicians will lend music to the service of Evening Prayer to offer a new worship experience when Grace Church hosts Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 4, at 4:00 p.m. Travelers may already be familiar with this time-honored form of worship, featured in larger American churches such as Washington National Cathedral and our own St. James Cathedral in the Diocese of Chicago. While maintaining its solemn purpose, the great English cathedrals likewise promote the service as a means of drawing tourists to learn about their churches in a meaningful and personal way.

The music department at Grace, together with Fr. Brian, hopes that our service will touch worshipers with just such a sense of comfort and connection. In commemoration of the Feast of All Saints, key selections will be drawn from writings and prayers associated with the saints. Please mark your calendar now and plan to bring friends to share in Choral Evensong at Grace.

Red Door Bazaar Unique Boutique Items needed: Gently used evening bags or handbags, fancy belts, jewelry, decorative items, glassware, fancy dishes and serving pieces, vases, framed pictures, etc. Please bring items to the church the week of November 5th.

The Red Door Bazaar
November 10th 9:00am - 2:00pm Soup Lunch 11:00am - 1:00pm

How exciting to be planning our next bazaar and soup luncheon! And the best part...the fun and fellowship as we welcome the community to Grace and offer them our tasty treats and wonderful hospitality. The bazaar offers a Unique Boutique, Book Nook, Handmade Holiday & Gift Items, Cookies & Sweets, and a delicious Soup Luncheon.

How can you help?

Please fill out the "I can help" portion below (you can check as many as you like) and bring/send it to the church, or call Phyllis Bergagna (815-232-2868) or Connie Burden (815-789-3181) or email cburden43@gmail.com. Thank you for your unselfish participation in making Grace Church's ECW vibrant and productive!

I can help:

- () Bring items for the Bake Sale
- () Work the day of the Bazaar
- () Make cookies/bars or soup for the Luncheon
- () Donate handcrafted items to sell at the Bazaar

Name: _____

Phone: _____

From the Wardens

Happy October.....The time of pumpkins and goblins and costumes. We love having Lucy and Maddy with us on Sundays, and maybe, just maybe... they could come to church in their Hallowe'en costumes. How much fun would that be?

As far as Grace goes....it seems to be a month of some things "new".....such as we should have a newly planted front yard before October is over...we plan to use as many native plants as possible so watch for our new look..we hope you like it....and some things "old"...we hope to finally get the water problem in the undercroft solved.... to finally stop the flooding in Fr. Brian's office and the furnace room next to it. It seems to be a little more involved than expected, so this month should bring some more investigation and finally a solution. Keep your fingers crossed.

The September Vestry meeting, in part, addressed the coming pledge drive and 2019 budget.

On Sunday, November 4 and Sunday, December 16 the choir will present special music programs at Grace Church. Mark your calendars and watch for more information about Evensong and Taize.

Grace's Greens asked for, and received, permission to be a co-sponsor for Freeport's Clean Energy Future project. There are plans to replace the current kitchen lights with LED bulbs and to install added insulation in the church attic....both of these will result in using less energy in our building.

The vestry minutes will be posted outside the church kitchen and on our Web Page as soon as they are approved.....read more there. Remember the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 7.....all animals welcome. And I hear there might even be treats.....for the four-legged visitors.

Enjoy this beautiful fall weather and colors.....a sign of God's goodness. Peggy Isaac - Senior Warden

From the Treasurer ~

2018 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending August, 2018

Giving Income:

<u>Aug. 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – Aug.18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
10,289.00	12,405.19	115,267.01	99,391.24

Vanguard Endowment Income:

<u>Aug. 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – Aug. 2018</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	0.00	33,000.00	33,000.00

Total Income:

<u>Aug. 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – Aug. 18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
10,460.70	12,792.70	147,725.00	135,491.20

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>Aug. 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – Aug.18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
1,781.02	2,484.88	45,769.92	51,630.98

Total All Expenses Including Rector:

<u>Aug. 2018</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – Aug. 18</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
12,881.77	15,964.57	124,851.88	154,925.56

Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>
70,534.23	6,571.76	29,453.16	472,353.62



We had a terrific turnout for our potluck and stewardship kickoff! Thank you to everyone who was able to participate. To those who were not able to be with us, if you have any questions about the proposed 2019 Budget, please email me gj.downing@comcast.net and I will send you a copy or stop by the office to pick up a copy.

The positive energy and enthusiasm has been exciting. The beautiful song sung by Lucy Prall during the service and her delicate dance down the aisle during the processional were delightful and a window into our future as a congregation. Your thoughtful and prayerful pledges help us to budget responsibly for today and tomorrow.

Please return your pledge cards by October 7th. This gives the Finance Committee and Vestry the time that we need to complete the 2019 Budget.

Heidi Downing, Treasurer

News from Grace's Greens

Extreme weather events are now a regular reminder that the climate has already changed. Scientists are becoming increasingly alarmed and now tell us we must cut our CO₂ emissions by 50% in the next 10 years, then continue the downward trend if we hope to stabilize warming at 2 degrees C. Illinois is particularly prone to both flooding and droughts, worsening air quality, and extreme heat from destabilizing weather patterns. At risk are our homes, our farms, and the health of our citizens. What we seldom consider is that animal agriculture has a huge impact on CO₂ emissions, water use and air and water quality.

Producing animal-based foods accounts for utilization of more than 80 percent of the world's farmland but provides only 18 percent of our calories and 37 percent of the protein eaten. That's quite a conversion loss. Additionally, production of that meat and dairy delivers 60 percent of the agricultural greenhouse gas emissions heating up our planet. Producing 1 pound of beef requires 1800 gallons of water; in terms of emissions, one serving of beef = 348 miles of driving.

The good news – each of us has the power to drastically reduce CO2 emissions and help the environment by making one simple lifestyle change: Eat less meat and dairy. Start by switching to plant-based milk, then develop vegetarian or vegan versions of your favorites (marinara sauce on pasta, veggie burgers, bean burritos, jackfruit tacos, vegetable soups), experiment with some of the meat substitutes like Morningstar or Gardein (available locally). Try meatless Mondays for a month and consider adding more meatless days. The planet will thank you!

A study by the Environmental Working Group found glyphosate, whose commercial brand name is Roundup, in 31 of 45 samples of breakfast cereals made from oats grown in a Roundup sprayed field, including Cheerios and Quaker Oats. California recognizes glyphosate as a carcinogen and a recent court case there awarded a school groundskeeper \$289 million for his non-Hodgkins lymphoma which the jury agreed he had contracted while spraying the herbicide at work. Monsanto is facing thousands more lawsuits. (From the Creation Care newsletter, September 2018) No trace of Glyphosate has been found in organic cereal.

Eco-Tip:

Make your own air freshener – Fill half a spray bottle with vodka (obviously use the least expensive)! Fill the other half of the bottle with distilled or filtered water. Give it a good shake and spray. Vodka is a disinfectant. When it hits your carpet, shoe interiors or clothes, it destroys the bacteria that cause odors.

October



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

1st	Jean Clayton	26th	Heidi Downing
3rd	Thomas Nord, Sr.		Peggy Isaac
4th	Yaa Dei Appiah	28th	Tawny Dreier
9th	John Bradbury		Merida Shore
12th	Becky Holbert	29th	Woody Burt
20th	Raelynn Shore	30th	Danielle Rogers
22nd	Jorie Dreier		Steve Terpening
23rd	Peg Feller		



9th	John & Cynthia Bradbury
14th	Larry & Lucy Miller
18th	Bernard & Deborah Lischwe
20th	Kris & Ashly Shore
	Curtis & Stacey Terpening
21st	Don & Peggy Isaac
22nd	Heather & Ryan Becker
23rd	Jeff & Carol Francis

Deadline for the November Messenger will be October 23rd.

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October Newsletter