



## The Messenger July 2019

### *Rector's Corner*

As I write this, we are on day four of our ecumenical Vacation Bible School with St. James CME, Prince of Peace Lutheran, and United Presbyterian Churches. This year Grace is hosting, and the experience has brought me great joy on a number of levels.

First, our building. My heart soars to the melody of happy little voices and the pitter-patter (perhaps thunder is more accurate) of little feet reverberating throughout our rooms and corridors that have been silent for too long. I have received a number of compliments on our beautiful spaces, and it is wonderful to see them serve their original purpose in such fine fashion.

Second, the volunteers. The dedication, patience, and love that our volunteers have shown this week has been an inspiration. I confess, youth ministry is not one of my charisms. I like to think that I am good with my own kids, and I enjoy them about 90% of the time. But put me in front of a group of six fourth and fifth graders and I am more nervous than if I were preaching to hundreds of adults. This week would not have been possible without our volunteers' tireless efforts, and I cannot thank them enough.

Third, and finally, the kids. I have been so impressed with how engaged and respectful they have been, at least with me during the Bible story. Sure, their attention is ping-ponging all over the place, and sometimes it is all I can do to catch them for a few moments, but when I do, they are tremendously thoughtful in their

contemplation of the Biblical narrative. This is really apparent among the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, with whom I opted to conduct a straight forward Bible study. No puppets or gimmicks. Let's just read scripture together and talk about it, and that is a real joy to see how God is speaking to them through what they have read.

Switching gears entirely, at the end of July, Ellen, the kids, and I will be heading out of town on our family vacation. We will leave just after the service on the 21<sup>st</sup> and I will be back in the office Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

My family has had a small camp on a lake in the Western Adirondacks for over sixty years, so all but two of my 35 years have involved a road trip to New York. There is no television, Internet, cell service (texts can typically make it through, though delayed), and personal business is conducted in an outhouse, the way God intended.

Since I will be quite off the grid, except when I go into town for groceries or whatever, please contact your Vestry Wardens, Candy Colby and Carol Price, in the event of a pastoral emergency. They can relay me any messages, as I will be periodically checking emails when I go into town and my phone starts buzzing like crazy. They can also reach out to local clergy in an emergency. Fr. Rosa will be celebrating the Eucharist with you on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. As of now, I have yet to find a priest available for August 4<sup>th</sup>, so that may be a Morning Prayer day.

Stay cool, stay dry, try not to get carried off by gnats or mosquitos, and have a very blessed July.

Peace,  
Fr. Brian

## The Core of our Faith

When a person becomes a Christian, he takes out a life insurance policy. But it is not a policy designed to insure one's own safety and blessings in heaven, but one to help those we love here on Earth. The basic motive of Christian living is not to insure ourselves against the fires of hell or to secure for ourselves the blessings of heaven. The primary motive is love — love for God and love for neighbor.

## Refresh my soul

It's so easy to get caught up in  
this fast-paced, rapid-fire world and to forget  
the peace that passes all understanding,  
the love that casts out all fear.

So slow me down, Lord.

Steady me.

Infuse my life with harmony and calm  
and refresh my soul in you.

## **From the Wardens**

Exciting news! At the last vestry meeting on June 16 the vestry voted to call Father Brian as our rector. We have received official approval from Bishop Lee and will be scheduled for October 17th when the Bishop will come to Grace to preside over the Celebration of New Ministry. We look forward to this happy occasion!

Bids for work on the kitchen project are in – once financing is approved by memorial committee, we will need to coordinate with the various tradesmens' schedules to begin work. It's been a long, complicated journey but we hope to complete the project by the fall.

We've signed a new contract with Constellation Energy to source our electricity from renewable energy. By signing up for the renewable energy option we encourage more clean energy projects. We also continue to look for ways to be more energy efficient, as by saving money on energy, we free up more funds for the mission of the church.

# From the Treasurer ~

## 2019 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending May, 2019

### Giving Income:

<u>May 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 19*</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
12,012.00	14,220.60	94,303.00	71,952.80

### Total Income:

<u>May 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
13,285.03	14,612.27	97,977.19	77,911.11

### Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>May 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
6,663.43	8358.36	19,603.38	19,166.48

### Total All Expenses Including Rector:

<u>May 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
22,937.10	21,332.38	84,915.74	84,323.00

### Vanguard to Operating Income:

<u>May 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – May 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	0.00	4,000.00	16,000.00

### Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>
66,973.87	5,925.88	30,772.41	478,326.46

\*Includes pre-paid pledge

## News from Grace's Greens

Our next event will be to attend the Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair on Saturday, August 10th from 9:00am - 5:00pm, at the Byron Forest Preserve Jarret Center (7993 N. River Rd, Byron).

Admission is \$5.00 for adults. Youth and children are free. There will be displays, vendors and several interesting lectures, as well as the Nature Center's permanent dioramas and exhibits.

The Sustainability keynote speaker this year will be Fred Iutzi, President of the Land Institute, at 9:30am. His topic is "The Path to Perennial Agriculture". He will be speaking about how perennial grain crops protect our soils more than annual grain crops. The Land Institute is working with Cascadian Farms and General Mills to produce a breakfast cereal from a perennial grain called Kernza.

The Energy keynote speaker is Dave McEllis who works on Illinois energy legislative issues. He will be speaking at noon. There will be other speakers (3 different lecture rooms), and one can attend as many of the talks as one chooses.

The Nature Center has a huge deck overlooking the prairie and there are wonderful walking trails. There will be more information later, but in the meantime, save the date!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

August 10th	Renewable Energy Fair
September 7th	Rock River canoe/kayak potluck lunch
October 5th	Visit to energy efficient homes

## Up from the valley

We think sometimes when things don't go the right way, when we suffer a defeat, that all has ended. Not true: It is only a beginning, always. Greatness comes not when things always go good for you, but the greatness comes when you are really tested, when you take some knocks, some disappointments, when sadness comes. Because only if you have been in the deepest valley can you ever know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain.

—Richard M. Nixon

- A Society will be judged on how it treats those in the dawn of life, those in the twilight of life and those in the shadow of life.

—Hubert Humphrey

- The Declaration of Independence ... gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time.

—Abraham Lincoln

## ***Grace Church Information***

**ECW** Due to the 4th of July holiday, the church office will be closed on Friday, July 5th. There will be no ECW First Friday gathering. We will all get together in August!

**Fr. Prall and his family** will be on vacation from Sunday, July 21st (leaving after church service) to Monday, August 5th. Fr. Brian will return to the office on Tuesday, August 6th. In case of an emergency please contact Senior Warden, Candy Colby at 815-616-8258 or Junior Warden, Carol Price at 815-541-5536.

### Fussy People

Did you every wonder if among the thousands of people fed by Jesus with just a few fish and five loaves of bread, there were some who complained about finding bones in the fish and lumps in the bread?

Some people seem unable to be happy about anything. There may be truth to the notion that those who spend their energy being grouchy all day, always barking about something, are very likely to be dog-tired at night.

The book of James has a lesson for us regarding our complaints and the misuse of our tongues. "How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire" (James 3:5-6 *NRSV*).

As Christians, may we use our tongues to light the fire of Good News, rather than fires of discontent!

# **Grace Episcopal Church**

10 S. Cherry Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

Church office hours: 8:00 - 5:00pm Tuesday through Friday

Phone: 815-232-4422 Fax: 815-235-4542

E-mail: [gracechurch@aeroinc.net](mailto:gracechurch@aeroinc.net)

Grace Episcopal Church WEB Site [gracechurchfreeport.org](http://gracechurchfreeport.org)

In case of an emergency please call:

Rector Brian Prall 815-233-1828

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The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop of Chicago

Rector:	Fr. Brian Prall
Ministers:	The People of Grace Church
Secretary:	Connie Olson
Wardens:	Candy Colby, Senior Warden Carol Price, Junior Warden
Treasurer:	Heidi Downing
Clerk:	Mike Shore
Vestry:	Doris Chesterton, Chad Enright, Glenn Gungel, Laurie Gungel, John Gush, Marissa Routson, Mike Shore, Nick Smith
Organists:	Steve McMillen and Laura Watson
Choir Director:	Steve McMillen
Altar Guild:	Peggy Isaac



***Wednesday Eucharist*** Wednesday, July 3rd, 10th, 17th

***Holiday - July 4th*** Office Closed

***Finance Committee Meeting*** Tuesday, July 9th at 9:30am

***Building and Grounds Meeting*** Wednesday, July 10th at 1:00pm

***Eucharist*** Sunday, July 14th at 11:30am at St. Andrew's in Monroe

***Bible Study*** Friday, July 19th at 10:00am

***People of Grace Breakfast*** Saturday, July 20th, 8:00am at 9 East. All are welcome to attend.



*July*

4th Ann Elmer  
6th Owen Helm  
19th Martha Furst

5th Brian & Ellen Prall  
11th Skip & Mary Lehnhard  
Tony & Nicole Bolotnik  
19th John & Elizabeth Woodward

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***Deadline*** for the August "Messenger" will be July 23rd.

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Freeport, IL. 61032  
815-232-4422



July Newsletter