

The Messenger

August 2019

Rector's Corner

A few of my seminary friends and classmates are presently on a pilgrimage with their respective youth groups to Alabama. What, pray tell, could be of interest to a pilgrim in Alabama? Part of a longer tour across the American South of sites and monuments to those who suffered under and fought against Jim Crow, many losing their lives in the process, the destination is Haynesville, Alabama.

Haynesville is the town where on August 20, 1965, Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a seminarian at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, pulled aside sixteen-year-old Ruby Sales and absorbed a 12-gauge shotgun blast meant for her. Daniels, Sales, and two others were part of a group working on behalf of the Civil Rights effort when they were accosted outside a small store by a white, unemployed highway worker wielding a gun. The gunman aimed at Sales, who is black, when Daniels stepped in to defend her and was killed.

August 14, the day that Daniels had been arrested for picketing, has been marked by the Episcopal Church as his Feast Day, and you can read about him in our liturgical supplement *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. If his feast day is observed with a Eucharist, the liturgical color is red, common for the feasts of martyrs whose blood was shed for Christ.

Fifty-four years later seems like a random anniversary for one to go on a pilgrimage, but you make them when you can, I suppose. I suppose another reason why such a pilgrimage is important now is that this summer will be widely observed as the 400th anniversary of the beginning of slavery on what would be U.S. soil. In 1619, nineteen Africans were brought to the colony in Jamestown, Virginia, a date that has been raised up as the beginning of slavery in America.

Historians aren't so keen on this date. African slaves were already in the Americas, some even in present-day Florida in the Spanish colonies. There were also free Africans in the colonies, and those nineteen souls who landed in Jamestown were, it is often disputed, indentured servants, which is distinct from chattel slavery. One could argue they were the first slaves in an English colony, but the English had already enslaved Native Americans. There is a vast commentary on the Internet, of course, as to why singling out 1619 is detrimental to our understanding of the stain of slavery on this nation and how it affects our continued healing. Unfortunately, the only opinions I have read thus far are by white authors.

Perhaps it is best then to say, "It has been *at least* 400 years." At the end of the day, though, it is a legacy we have yet to overcome fully. Slavery may have been abolished in 1865, but a century and a half of oppression via Jim Crow, practices of redlining, and a host of other racial injustices have created the world we see today. Far from the 1860s, and much improved from the 1960s, there is still work to be done, and if you want my honest opinion, no one seems to be quite sure how to proceed from here. May God continue to guide us in this work in the decades to come.

I will leave you now with a prayer for just this; the Collect for Jonathan Myrick Daniels' feast day:

O God of justice and compassion, you put down the proud and mighty from their place, and lift up the poor and the afflicted: We give you thanks for your faithful witness Jonathan Myrick Daniels, who, in the midst of injustice and violence, risked and gave his life for another; and we pray that we, following his example, may make no peace with oppression; through Jesus Christ the just one, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Plain and Simple

How can we know that what Jesus has shown us of God is the truth; or how do we know when we look into the face of Jesus that we are looking into the face of God? The answer is so plain and simple that it is a marvel how intelligent men and women can manage to miss it as they do. Look at what Christ has done for the soul of man: That is your answer. Christianity is just Christ — nothing more and nothing less. It is a way of life, and He is that way. It is the truth about human destiny, and He is that truth. —R.J. Campbell (*The Call of Christ*)

Grace Episcopal Church

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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

Warden's Report

Thank you to our garden “angels” who helped keep our landscaping looking beautiful in June-July: Carol & Duane Price and Laurie and Glenn Gungel.

If you have a half hour or so per week to devote to our new garden, please contact Candy Colby for details. It would be much appreciated!

“I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.” —George Washington Carver

- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

—Anonymous
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation leans on the bell.
- People see God every day; they just don't recognize him.

—Pearl Bailey
- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God is right there to offer you strength and guidance.

—Anonymous

Notes 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 to 5:00pm at the Byron Forest Preserve Jarrett 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.

We (John and Allison) plan to be there in time for the 9:30am lecture, and will spend most of the day at the center. We will be taking a bag lunch to enjoy either on the large deck overlooking the prairie, or under the picnic shelter. An alternative lunch option is the restaurant at the adjacent Prairie View Golf Club.

Directions: In Byron, cross the Rock River on IL 72, heading east. Take the first right turn onto N. River Rd. In less than half a mile turn left to the Jarrett Nature Center.

If you would like to carpool, please let me know. If you don't see me at church email or phone.

Notes from Grace's Greens: (continued)

Rock River canoe/kayak trip, September 7th

There will be a signup sheet outside the kitchen. Please indicate if you would like to rent a canoe or a kayak so that we can make the reservation at White Pelican. The format will be the same as last year with a potluck lunch after the paddle. The potluck is open to all, even if you do not want to be on the water.

The Prize Under the Rock



On the road in front of his palace a king had his guards place a large rock. Standing hidden, the king watched to see how passersby handled the obstruction. Most travelers simply walked around it. A few tried to toll the rock, but found it too difficult to dislodge. They gave up and went on.

Eventually, a peasant pushing a cart full of vegetables stopped. He put his full strength behind the stone and pushed. It didn't budge. Undeterred, he pushed again and again until he finally managed to move the rock our of the path. When he started on his way again, he glanced down and saw a leather bag where the rock had been. He picked up the bog, opened it, and discovered it was filled with gold coins. There was a note from the king. It said that anyone who found the bag could have the money.

The winners in life are those who work faithfully until the barriers to fulfillment are removed. "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10, NRSV)

Grace Church News

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

ECW will meet on the 2nd Friday of August at 11:30am in the undercroft. Please bring a sack lunch. We will be discussing the Red Door Bazaar and other upcoming events.

For questions or concerns, please call or send me an email.
Connie B. cburden43@gmail.com or 815-789-3181

Grace Episcopal Church Brat Stand Fundraiser at Cub Foods September 13th and 14th

We will need a total of 16 volunteers per day. Shifts are 9:00am to 1:30pm and 1:30pm to 6:00pm. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board downstairs near the kitchen. Positions needed are:

Grill Cooks (2-3 people per shift)
Money Handler (1 person per shift)
Preparing the order (3 people per shift)
Food Wrapper (helps with bagging order)

Workers outside wagon:

Assists Food Wrappers, maintains condiments, prepares buns for use
(2 people needed per shift)

Umbrella Shift—4 hours 10:30am to 2:30pm

If you have any questions please contact Cathy Perkins 815-238-3661

From the Treasurer ~

2019 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending June, 2019

Giving Income:

<u>June 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – June19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
6,509.01	12,405.19	92,616.01	74,580.86

Vanguard Endowment Income:

<u>June 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – June19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Total Income:

<u>June 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – June19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
22,631.03	12,792.70	135,861.64	105,905.80

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>June 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – June19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
2,727.55	2,484.88	43,216.00	46,661.22

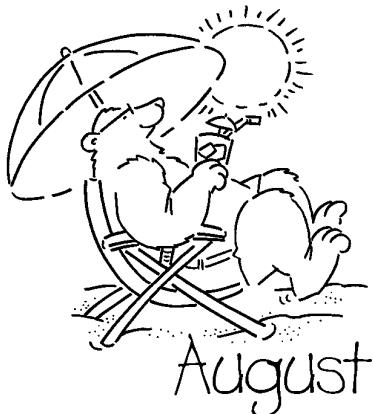
Total All Expenses Including Rector:

<u>June 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – June 19</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>	<u>Reserve Fund</u>
75,475.52	6,127.37	30,578.35	495,702.98	7,554.00

*Includes pre-paid pledge



Eucharist Wednesdays at 5:30pm beginning on the 7th.

ECW First Friday Lunch Friday, August 9th at 11:30am. Coffee and tea will be provided.

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

Building & Grounds Committee Wednesday, August 14th, 1:00pm in St. Stephen's Hall.

People of Grace Breakfast Saturday, August 17th at 8:00am at 9 East Coffee Shop. All are welcome.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, August 18th, 10:30am.

August



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

21st Curtis Terpening
24th Shirlee Iverson
30th Madalynn Enright
Stacey Terpening
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 23rd

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JOY!

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