



The Messenger *September 2019*

Rector's Corner

The summer months at Grace have been fairly low-key. We did band together a great group of enthusiastic marchers to participate in the Dairy Days Parade. A small group of us also enjoyed a wonderful outing to see our own Becca Francis in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dream Coat* at the Starlight Theatre in Rockford. For the most part, though, it feels like I blinked and September was here.

Hopefully everyone is well rested from their summer respite because in September we hit the ground running. You will note on the enclosed calendar that we have something lined up just about every weekend in September: The Grace's Greens canoe trip; the Cub Foods Brat Stand; and a new Freeport event and fundraiser opportunity with the non-profit festival Eats and Beats happening downtown, the details of which we are finalizing for our participation.

Sprinkled in there are a couple of outreach opportunities for this Fall. I encourage you to read Ellen's article to learn more about one benefitting our local schools. I have also invited FACC Director Dean Wright to give the message on September 29th to share another, as well as to inform us about what is new at FACC and how Grace can get more involved. Preparations for C.R.O.P. Walk will also be picking up speed here shortly.

On the home front, a Cleanup Day has been scheduled for September 21st. We will be getting a dumpster for the primary objective of cleaning out the attic and 3rd floor of things that are in severe disrepair. There is plenty to do beyond that, including cleaning out leaves and trash that has accumulated in the alcove between the addition and the old section of the building and the stairwell that leads down into the undercroft. It will be kind of a rolling work day since we will have the dumpster for about 10 days, so please help when you can. Finally, we will be scheduling a photoshoot with Life-touch in order to put together a new photo directory probably in early October.

It certainly is a flurry of activity, but such is the case in a church so full of life. The Holy Spirit is moving and working here at Grace, and your love, prayers, enthusiasm, and participation, through the power of the Spirit, make that life possible.

Sustaining that life also calls for our financial stewardship. Though you will always hear me say stewardship is a discipline, not a season, on September 22nd we will be holding another potluck/state-of-the-church meeting after the service where, as Grace's stewards, we will look at our financial picture before pledging our annual fiscal commitment to Grace Church and the amazing things we do here as the Body of Christ. At that time, I ask that we all engage in careful discernment about what each of us is able to contribute to our continued mission.

I hope you all have a blessed September, and I look forward to sharing with you in the abundant ministry, worship, and fellowship opportunities that await us in the coming months.

Peace,
Fr. Brian

I am writing today to ask for you to join me in an outreach project that will benefit Jones Farrar Elementary. As many of you know, I have started working as a full-time music teacher again and Jones Farrar is my home school (I am at Lincoln Douglas Elementary in the afternoons). A few weeks ago my Jones Farrar colleagues and I attended a 4 day training on Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). During this training we learned a system of strategies and techniques on how to reach, relate to, and teach “children who come from hard places.” I invite you to do your own research on TBRI, as it was one of the most informative and helpful pieces of professional development I have attended in years.

During this training we talked about ways of handling disruptive student behavior and more importantly ways in which we may proactively stop this behavior before losing valuable instruction time reacting to it. We talked about reasons a student may “act out” in class. Students can be frustrated because they don’t understand the work in front of them, they can be upset about an argument they had before coming to class, they can be tired because they didn’t get a good night’s sleep, they can be sad because their parents are going through a divorce, and sometimes they can act out simply because they are hungry and can’t focus.

Hunger, especially hungry children, is an issue that is near and dear to my heart. In 2010 Brian and I moved to Sycamore, IL. I could not find a full-time teaching job so I subbed a lot in the DeKalb public schools. In the Spring of 2011 I was asked to do a 5 week long term sub job at a school I had subbed at a lot that year. I was going to be a 1st grade teacher for those 5 weeks. Enter Devin (not his real name). Devin was a child who acted out A LOT! He would get mad in the middle of a lesson and start running laps around the school (it was an open concept school so there were no walls or doors separating the classrooms). Every day I would have to call the office and ask for someone to find him and bring him back to my room. Frustrated I asked another teacher I admired for advice. Among a myriad of strategies she gave me was one that seemed silly to me at the time. This teacher asked me, “Does Devin come in for breakfast in the morning?”

Breakfast? What does that have to do with anything? The next day however, I went out on to the playground when I arrived at school, found Devin and told him to come in and eat breakfast. He wasn't happy about it (he wanted to keep playing), but he did it. I repeated this action every day for the next 5 weeks. I'm not going to tell you that he completely changed and was the ideal student, BUT I am going to tell you that our relationship changed, the morning work became easier to get him to do and I called the office much less often because he stayed in the classroom more.

In the last 8 years of teaching, I have met many more students like Devin. I have talked with classroom teachers, principals and social workers and time and again among the list of ways we could help these children succeed in class, food was always mentioned. Think about how productive you are on a day when you forget to pack your lunch at work or when it's midafternoon and there are no snacks to be found. Now imagine trying to learn how to read or do math on that day.

Taking all of this into consideration, we at Jones Farrar would like to try something different this year. We would like to offer all of our students a high protein snack once a day, free of charge. Snacks such as cheese sticks or yogurt that will stick with the children a little longer than crackers or chips and hopefully allow them to focus on the learning happening in the classroom. We know that this will not magically solve all of our behavior issues, rather it is a piece in a very large puzzle that is education today. We believe that when coupled with engaging lesson plans, our new TBRI strategies and the love we have for our students that it will help. Since this is something new we are trying and we do not wish to charge the parents for it, we are seeking monetary donations from the community. On Sunday, September 8th we will have a special collection during our service. All of the money collected at that time will be donated to Jones Farrar to help offset the cost of purchasing these high protein snacks. If you are unable to be at church that day and would still like to donate (which I

really hope you do), please feel free to drop off a check to Connie or Fr. Brian during office hours during the week. Please make sure to put Jones Farrar in the memo line.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at envogel@hotmail.com or talk to me at coffee hour. I am excited about the opportunity to combine my Grace Church family with my new Jones Farrar family.

Ellen Prall

Notes from Grace's Greens:

The Rock River canoe/kayak trip will be on September 7th. We'll meet at White Pelican Canoe Rental (201 N. 2nd St, Oregon, IL) at 10:00am. The paddle will take about an hour and a half, and will be followed by a potluck lunch at around noon.

Everyone is welcome! If you prefer not to paddle, you can see the canoes off at White Pelican and go on the Brooks Isle to await the arrival of the voyageurs, or arrive at the house in time for lunch. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near the kitchen.

Upcoming events:

October 5th Visit to energy efficient homes in Ogle County
November Food tasting during coffee hour after church

Grace Church News & Upcoming Events

Choir Season Resumes on September 4th, we will resume choir rehearsals each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the undercroft. Our first Sunday to sing in worship for the fall season will be September 8th. If you enjoy singing, please consider giving choir a try. Our time together is a mixture of fun fellowship music-making, and discussing the spiritual meanings of the texts we sing. The choir looks forward to another year of joyful time together!

ECW First Friday Dear ladies, we gather again on the first Friday of September (the 6th) at 11:30am. Please bring your own lunch. We will be discussing our upcoming fundraiser and possible programs. As decided last month, we will not be having our annual Red Door Bazaar this fall. But, we will have lots of opportunities for fun and fellowship. Questions or comments? Please call or email Connie B. at 815-789-3181 or cburden43@gmail.com

Church Work Day will be held on Saturday, September 22nd at 9:00am. There are several projects that need to be done so anyone who can come and help would be appreciated. More information about this work day will be coming in the weekly bulletins.

We're still in need of "garden angels" to keep our new landscaping looking nice as we go into fall. Time commitment is about 1/2 hour a week - pulling any weeds, deadheading spent flowers, picking up trash, watering if no rain in the past week. Contact Candy Colby for details. Thank you!

Recycle Update

Yes, we still make trips over to the reclamation center in Rockford. Some of these are the items NOT placed in the large green reclamation container. Here are some updates –

BATTERIES: Normal AAA, AA, C and D batteries can be placed in your household recycle tubs.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES: batteries such as hearing aide, cell phone or remote-control devices (that do not use standard batteries), do go in the green container for reclamation.

LIGHTBULBS: All standard incandescent bulbs go in your household recycle tubs. This also includes floodlight bulbs.

FLUORESCENT BULBS; All fluorescent bulbs including Tubes, CFL and LED bulbs go in the green container for reclamation.

Warden's Report

Reminder to mark your calendars for Thursday, October 17, 2019, tentative time 7 p.m., for the Bishop's visit to formally install Father Brian as rector of Grace. We will have a reception following the service, which will be catered. Time to celebrate!

Stewardship Sunday will be on September 22. There will be a parish meeting with a potluck on that date.

After the cleanup scheduled for September 21, we anticipate completing the attic insulation project, which should help with energy efficiency.

We are looking into installing security cameras for the church doors and also considering having an AED machine (automatic external defibrillator) on the premises. Vestry members are gathering information on these items regarding costs, possible grants, etc.

Father Brian has met with the insurance representative to review our insurance coverage. As noted in the vestry minutes, we have 4.8 million dollars in building coverage, \$626,000 in contents coverage. Some items like the silver and brass, etc. might have a value that exceeds this amount. We will need to get an inland marine policy to cover that and are looking into the cost involved.

Plans are in the works to update the church photo directory this fall. We will be coordinating with the photo company's schedule.

Last but not least, planning continues on the much anticipated kitchen project. We are still waiting on a couple of bids but hope to schedule the actual work soon. The time involved in completing this seems only slightly shorter than eternity, but we will get it done! Candy Colby, Senior Warden

From the Treasurer ~

2019 OPERATING BUDGET Month Ending July 31, 2019

Giving Income:

<u>July 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – July 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
8,217.00	14,220.60	126,285.00	100,394.00

Vanguard Endowment Income:

<u>July 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – July 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00

Total Income:

<u>July 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – July 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
8,521.64	14,612.27	130,736.04	111,135.65

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

<u>July 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – July 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
1,240.22	2,470.86	26,093.80	24,108.20

Total All Expenses Including Rector:

<u>July 2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan – July 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
12,967.16	14,594.88	113,609.81	113,362.76

Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Reserve Fund</u>
16,116.91	6,127.37	30,524.85	495,702.98	62,520.59

*Includes pre-paid pledge



Wednesday Eucharists at 5:30pm

Bible Study Friday, September 6th, 10:00am.

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

Rock River canoe/kayak trip will be on September 7th. Meet at White Pelican Canoe Rental at 10:00am.

Building & Grounds Committee Wednesday, September 11th at 1:00pm in St. Stephen's Hall.

Cub Foods Brat Stand Friday, September 13th and Saturday, September 14th. Come and support Grace Church.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, September 15th, 10:30am.

Bible Study Friday, September 20th, 10:00am.

People Of Grace Breakfast Saturday, September 21st, 8:00am at 9 East. All people of Grace Church are welcome.

Church Work Day Saturday, September 21st at 9:00am.

Potluck/state-of-the-church meeting September 22nd after the service to kick-off our Stewardship Drive.

September



6th Cynthia Bradbury

9th Phyllis Bergagna

Skip Lehnhard

Brian Douglas Mitchell

12th Kathy Helm

13th Sue Norman

13th Ashly Shore

20th John Gush

29th Ruslan Bolotnik

30th Nancy Bender

Cathy Perkins

9th Chad & Katie Enright

23rd Stephen & Susan Lafferty

Deadline for the October "Messenger" will be September 20th

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September Newsletter