



The Messenger

November 2019

Rector's Message

A few weeks ago, we were blessed to have Freeport Area Church Co-op's director Dean Wright take to the pulpit and deliver a great sermon about homelessness in our community, the work he does with FACC to shelter and feed our homeless, and the Gospel imperative for all of us to do our part to care for the poor and homeless.

In his address, Dean spoke about a crucible of sorts that he undertook a number of years ago in which he went homeless for ten days. He said after the first few days he felt he had pretty well figured out how to obtain his basic needs and therefore it seemed not as difficult as he had assumed. The sobering moment came when he realized he had what an actual person enduring homelessness probably does not have: Hope. Hope that at the end of ten days the experiment would be over and there was a home and family for him to return to.

The month of November brings with it Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, the 16th through the 24th. This is the week right before many of us will be celebrating Thanksgiving.

In observance of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Dean will be taking to the streets again for another ten-day stint of homelessness. The catch this time is that the local clergy will be joining him. Each night a different member of the clergy will join Dean at a small "camp" in a vacant lot downtown starting at 4:00 p.m. The goal is to raise \$500 each night to send that clergy

member home, essentially “buying” them a night in a shelter. If the goal is not reached by 10:00 . . . well, it will be a long, cold night outside.

The estimated cost to house one person for a night at a shelter is \$12.50. The goal for the week is to raise the equivalent of 1,200 nights of shelter, or \$15,000. There will be an opportunity available to donate online via Facebook, so you may share the event with family and friends asking for their support as well. You may also make donations in person, should you like to stop by the “camp”. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items and personal care items for the pantry at the site throughout the week.

I have signed up for the evening of Monday, November 18th. I hope you will consider supporting me in this endeavor and send me home, but more importantly, I hope you will consider helping provide a safe, warm, dry place for someone who has no place to call home.

Many blessings,
Fr. Brian

Looking Ahead

Christmas Services are set:

December 24th 7:00pm
 10:00pm Special music and carols
 10:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 25th 10:00pm Christmas Day Eucharist

Music Notes from Steve

Inspired by my many incidental explanations that punctuate our rehearsals, the choir has been after me to make regular contributions to the newsletter, so here I am. Among other things, they'll tell you that I never met a teachable moment I didn't like. At this season of harvest and thanksgiving, my thoughts rewind to our week of Vacation Bible School this past June for just such a moment.

You may be aware that VBS music in the 21st century features lyrics and movements that students learn by watching professionally produced videos that come with our VBS curriculum. This year, one song called "Grateful" led with the lines "I like to think about the goodness of the Lord. He gives me everything I need and so much more." The theme of gratitude might make it simply an anthem of thanksgiving, but there is more to that first phrase. The writer cleverly suggests that we can actively THINK about the goodness of the Lord. By arranging our minds, we focus our lens on the blessings all around us.

We're never too young or too old to cultivate positive attitudes. The active practice of gratitude is inspiring and reassuring. Many people have taken up the discipline of writing a few lines in a gratitude journal as they begin each day. A couple I know keeps on their dining table a small basket of handwritten cards bearing names of friends, and each evening they draw the next card and include prayers for that friend in their table grace. How might you remind yourself to think about the goodness of the Lord?

The choir and the music staff are grateful for the support of the Grace family, and we look forward to sharing this season with you!

Steve McMillen

From The Wardens

As you can see, the kitchen project is underway. It will be exciting to see this take shape and finally to have a new kitchen that will better suit our needs.

We will be proceeding with placing insulation in the third floor attic, which was one of the recommendations in the energy audit done by Faith in Place last year.

On October 17 we had a lovely service in celebration of Father Brian's official installation as rector. Many thanks to Carol and Duane Price, Mike Shore, and Katie and Chad Enright for all the planning and setup for the reception following the service. Also thanks to Steve, Molly and the choir for the beautiful music!

Candy Colby, Senior Warden

News from Grace's Greens

Grace's Greens will be hosting coffee hour after church on December 8th. Apart from our usual cookies and bird-friendly coffee we will also be having a food tasting. We are hoping to have all sorts of foods-unfamiliar grains, vegan cheeses, unusual proteins, and forgotten and neglected vegetables. Hopefully we will have an assortment of foods that are not only good for our health, but also good for the environment.

We invite everyone to experiment a little at the tasting, and also to bring something for us all to try, if you can. Who knows? Climate changes may force us to modify our diet in the future, so this will be a good opportunity to try something different.

Also, we will have a suggestion box, so if there is anything that you would like Grace's Greens to focus on next year, or any activity you would like us to organize, please let us know.

Grace's Greens (continued)

Grace Church has been purchasing coffee from Birds and Beans (certified “bird friendly”) for several years. You might be interested to know that in doing this we are:

Helping preserve winter habitat for many of our migratory songbirds

Helping provide a living wage for small, family-run coffee farms

Supporting vibrant rural communities in Central America

Enabling farmers and their children to stay on their farms

Climate change is affecting farmers in Central America. Drought and disease have forced many to abandon their farms and try to find work elsewhere. According to one of the owners of Birds and Beans, the coffee farms they contract with (which are triple certified as organic, fair trade and shade grown) are doing well – many of the farms have been in families for generations and excellent land stewardship is one of their hallmarks. Thank you to our church family at Grace for supporting this effort. It’s one important thing we can do to help both rural communities and our feathered friends! If you’d like to order coffee for yourself or for a gift, go to birdsandbeanscoffee.com.

Did You Know:

If we all swapped beans for beef, we’d be close to the 2020 emission goals set by President Obama in 2009. Black bean burgers - it’s what for dinner! (“If Everyone Ate Beans Instead of Beef,” by James Hamblin, MD, *The Atlantic*, August 2, 2017)

Grace Church News

ECW News All women of Grace Church are invited to attend our meetings usually held on the first Friday of the month. (We take "vacation" during the winter months.) We will be meeting at 11:30am on Friday, November 1st. Please bring our own lunch. This month we will be discussing outreach opportunities. Please come with your ideas!

Thank you....to everyone who made the dozens of jumbo cookies and who worked at our booth at the first Eats and Beats Festival. I especially want to thank Father Brian and Carol & Duane for going above and beyond!!! I would also like to thank the women who provided food for the lunch following the memorial service for Pat Lockwood and helped in the kitchen.

United Thank Offering Ingathering

Last year, we were happy to enlist the help of our youngest ECW members who came in costume to collect our UTO Offering. They were in the narthex on Sunday, October 27th and will be there again November 3rd with their baskets and buckets to receive your donation.

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church, here and abroad. The UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO box. 100% of what is collected supports innovative ministry and mission throughout the Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Thank you for your generosity!

Connie Burden

Popcorn and a Movie

Join Grace's Greens for retro movie night on Friday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. We'll be showing the 1973 sci-fi movie "Soylent Green." This dystopian thriller stars Charlton Heston and Edward G. Robinson and depicts a world trying to deal with "the greenhouse effect." There will be a short discussion following the movie to discuss what actions we can take to deal with climate change, as scientists tell us we must wean ourselves from fossil fuels within a relatively few years.

St. Andrew's Day is November 17th. We will once again be having a tea following this special service with bagpipes. The sign up sheet for food donations is posted outside the kitchen on the bulletin board. Given the uncertainty of the completion of the kitchen project, **I request that all food come ready to serve. Please take your plate home with you at the end of coffee hour. I do not have a sink to do dishes from this event.** Thank you for your assistance in bringing the food for our special coffee hour.

2019 OPERATING BUDGET
Month Ending September, 2019

Giving Income:

| <u>Sept. 2019</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – Sept.19</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 15,065.00 | 14,22.60 | 151,314.00 | 128,835.20 |

Vanguard Endowment Income:

| <u>Sept. 2018</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan –Sept. 19</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12,000.00 |

Total Income:

| <u>Sept. 2019</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – Sept.19</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 18,759.10 | 18,612.27 | 156,398.09 | 144,360.19 |

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

| <u>Sept. 2019</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – Sept.19</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 936.49 | 2,470.86 | 29,618.00 | 29,049.92 |

Total All Expenses Including Rector:

| <u>Sept. 2019</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Jan – Sept.19</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 15,330.60 | 14,444.88 | 140,768.78 | 142,252.52 |

Current Assets:

| <u>Checking</u> | <u>Columbarium</u> | <u>Memorials</u> | <u>Endowment</u> | <u>Reserve Fund</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 15,746.21 | 6,128.98 | 22,324.76 | 502,823.14 | 62,551.95 |

Finance Committee Report

WOW! What a fantastic response! Thank you! Thank you!
93.0 of you returned your pledge card by October 29th!
And more good news...we continue to happily accept pledges.

The finance committee and the Vestry have been working on the 2020 Budget and plan to have it completed by the November Vestry meeting on November 24th. It is always a good feeling to get the budget work completed.

Thank you for all that you do to us meet our financial responsibilities. We are an amazing parish!

Grace Episcopal Church

10 S. Cherry Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

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In case of an emergency please call:

Priest-in-Charge Brian Prall 815-233-1828

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November Events

Bible Study Fridays, November 1st and 15th at 10:00am

ECW First Friday Lunch November 1st at 11:30am. Coffee and tea will be furnished.

Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 12th at 9:00am.

Building & Grounds Meeting Wednesday, November 13th at 1:00pm in St. Stephen's Hall.

Grace's Greens Popcorn and a Movie, Friday, November 15th at 6:30pm.

People of Grace Breakfast Saturday, November 16th, 8:00am at 9 East Coffee Shop.

Come all ye bonnie lads and lassies! Our annual St. Andrew's Day liturgy and tea will be held on November 17th. Dig out that tartan and come join us as we enjoy listening to the bagpipes.

Diocesan Convention Friday, November 22nd and Saturday, November 23rd. Attendees: Fr. Prall & Ellen, Connie Burden, Chad & Katie Enright and Doris Chesterton.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, November 10th, after the 9:00am service.

November



3rd Katie Enright
Sandra Terpening
4th Dorothy Nord
6th Richard Hepner
7th Jacquelyn Sigafus
9th Jack Colby

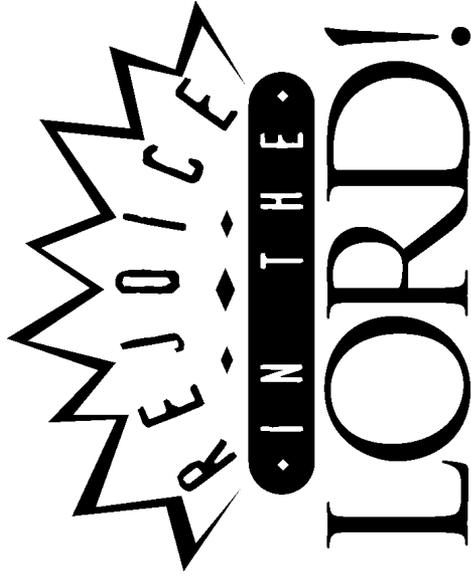
10th Ingrid Standish
11th Diane Conroy
21st Gary Downing
Brian Dreier
24th Wendi Chesterton
28th Keagan Miller



23rd Albert & Evelyn Appiah

Deadline for the December Messenger will be November 21st

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