



The Messenger

June 2020

Rector's Message

Greetings and a blessed Phase 3 to you and yours. At least I believe that is where the state of Illinois should be at in its reopening plan by the time you read this.

No doubt by now we are all feeling quite over COVID-19 and the impact it has had on our daily life and worship. This coming Sunday we will have endured three of the Church's seven principal feasts (Easter, Ascension, Pentecost) in quarantine, and we are likely to observe a fourth, Trinity Sunday, in similar fashion. As any priest will tell you, and I'm sure I have articulated this before, the church is the people and not the building, but there is no adequate substitute for the people being able to gather together as the body of Christ in our common worship in a sacred space.

I would like to tell you definitively what lies ahead for Grace as we prepare to move into Phase 3 with the rest of the state, but timing is just not on my side. The Diocesan plan to which I have referred a number of times now is still receiving its finishing touches before being released to where the vestry and I can start discerning our next course of action. With less than a week left before the state moves to the next phase as I write this, there just is not enough time for us to have everything figured out to transition at the same time. Rest assured, though, that I will keep you posted as soon as we have had a chance to do the work.

Clergy did receive a cursory “tour” of the plan in our last weekly meeting with the Bishop’s staff. The following is what the vestry and I will be looking at, as well as some possible options we will need to weigh before moving forward:

- June 1st filming remote services in the church building will be permitted.
- Phase 3 for the Church means 10 people or less, with masks, may attend in-person worship.
- Singing and wind instruments are prohibited.
- Books are to be removed from pew-backs, and a comprehensive sanitation process will need to be conducted between services.
- The logistics of safe distribution of Communion are still being discerned.
- Each parish will need to consider how to enforce mask and population policies.

There are a few options the vestry and I will need to consider in order to comply with these Phase 3 protocols. Some parishes are considering multiple services throughout the week. Some are considering RSVP systems where parishioners sign up to come one Sunday a month. Some are opting to just continue on with their current virtual worship until the next phase, as there is no requirement for us to reopen. I spoke to one priest whose leaders have opted not to reopen at all until Phase 5 because they do not want to be put in the position in Phase 4, with the allowance of 50 persons or less, of turning away person #51.

None of this is ideal, I know, and none of it hastens open the doors to the worship to which we were accustomed. For me, I have been taking solace in the well-timed Epistle readings for the past few Sundays from 1 Peter (3:13-5:11), which speaks of suffering for doing right and God’s grace. In these words, is a reminder that Christians possess a unique ability for love of God.

perseverance through our faith in Jesus Christ, who suffered even death on a cross to prove nothing can separate us from the Let us endure a little while longer, friends, and allow this ordeal to make us stronger, more loving people of God.

God be with you 'til we meet again,
Fr. Brian

Sr Warden Report

Hello everyone. Seems like May went by fast! You know, like "Ground Hog's Day". Everyday seems like the one before. Finally, the weather is nice. It really does help with my mental attitude. I don't know about everyone else but I am really tired of all those commercials with the smiley people having a great time at home, playing and doing all kinds of fun stuff. They are saying, we'll get through this together. Well, good for them but I am a Hugger, and I am not okay. And that's okay, we will get through this, but we will get through this together with God's help and the help of our church family.

I want to thank everyone for your prayers for when I was under house arrest for my COVID19 scare. I got sick and my doctor sent me to the ER for the test, because I am at high risk for everything since I am getting "a little older" and my immune system is compromised. Quite the ordeal but a week later found out it was negative! Thank the Lord! I was just normal sick with a bacterial infection. Duane is especially glad he doesn't have to sleep on the couch anymore with the cat! Haha

I keep you all in my prayers. I love you all and miss you. I also miss the strength I get from going to church and seeing all of you. It has been hard not having choir and singing with my choir family. I know this won't be over for awhile but God will get us through.

God Bless You!
Carol Price Sr. Warden

Gain & Loss Budget Performance Month Ending April, 2020

Giving Income:

April '20	Budget	Jan-April '20	YTD Budget
11,706.44	15,038.86	101,205.41 *	64,505.12

Vanguard Endowment Income:

April '20	Budget	Jan-April '20	YTD Budget
0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00

Total Income:

April '20	Budget	Jan-April '20	YTD Budget
11,706.44	15,038.86	101,205.41 *	64,505.12

Total Building and Grounds Expense:

April '20	Budget	Jan-April '20	YTD Budget
1,330.57	2,589.61	11,743.31	10,358.12

Total all Expenses Including Rector:

April '20	Budget	Jan-April '20	YTD Budget
12,129.56	14,824.89	61,340.13	63,385.96

Current Assets:

<u>Checking</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Memorials</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Reserve Fund</u>
39,589.57	8,214.73	9,817.66	408,098.86	72,263.95

* Includes pre-paid pledges.

Thoughts for Father's Day

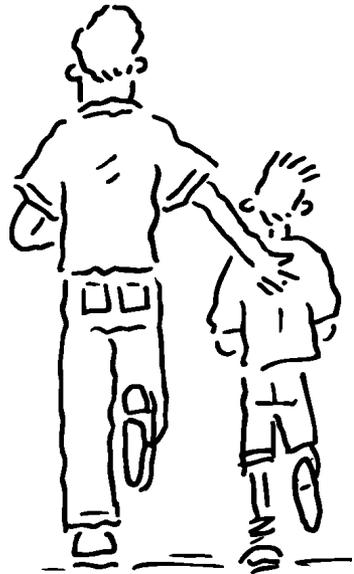
An unknown father who began to consider the example he should set for his children penned the following poem:

A careful man I ought to be;
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes;
Whate'er he sees me do,
He tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine;
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be,
For a little fellow follows me.



From the Treasurer ~

This is both a “Thank you” and a gentle reminder. Our financial obligations continue to be met each month due to the steady influx of pledge contributions. Thank you!!! If this is a reminder to pop a check in the mail, go for it. Connie has continued to work in the office and from home. This has kept us on track.

As we know, this is a difficult time for many and churches, most especially downtown churches, get requests for financial assistance by those who are struggling. Fr. Brian has a good understanding of how to manage his discretionary fund. He helps with food cards and assists with rent payments by paying the landlord directly or the utility company directly. Seeing the people on TV lined up for miles and waiting for hours to receive food has opened my eyes to the great need for even the most basic of items. If you are looking for a way to help, please consider making a financial donation to line item 5602 Rector’s Discretionary Fund in our operating budget. Make your check out to Grace Episcopal writing Rector’s Discretionary Fund on the memo line.

So many have mentioned how much they look forward to the day when we can once again worship together. Stay well and stay safe.

Peace be with you,
Heidi Downing, Treasurer



2nd	Laura Watson	18th	Mackenzie Francis
3rd	Connie Olson	20th	Ellen Prall
8th	Kathryn Terpening	22nd	Don Doak
9th	Candy Colby	23rd	Rose Dreier
10th	Eden Helm	24th	Jon Watson
11th	John Woodward	30th	John Burden
	Steve McMillen		Joseph Graham
13th	Quinn Mitchell		Jeff Francis
	Nicholas Smith, Sr.		



5th	Glenn & Laurie Gungel
8th	Duane & Carol Price
21st	Lan & Rayma Pinney
22nd	Bruce & Kathy Helm
24th	Ralph & Sue Norman

Deadline for the July "Messenger" will be June 23rd.

Grace Episcopal Church
10 S. Cherry Avenue
Freeport, IL. 61032
815-232-4422

There is no
Holy One like
the LORD,
there is no
Rock
like our God.



1 Samuel 2:2

June Newsletter