



The Messenger

October 2021

Rector's Corner

As I alluded in this year's stewardship letter that went out a few weeks ago, I thought I would use this space to say more about the restructuring of outreach at Grace Church. I still have the collection of sticky notes I asked you to compile in my first few months here, where you wrote down *your* priorities for this parish as we began to form our new relationship and grow in our ministry together. Grouped thematically and taped above the light switch in my office, lest I forget things done and left undone, I have been able to remove only one grouping definitively, and that was anything involving Grace's kitchen. Revenue, Christian formation/fellowship opportunities, and Outreach still remain.

Opportunities for much formal fundraising or for formation and fellowship have pretty well been upended by the pandemic, in which I have now spent roughly half of my short career as a priest. As I mentioned in my letter, however, we have made some investments to grow our reserve funds as we prepare for a couple costly yet inevitable repairs to the property that are coming down the pike. We have also been sprucing up the former Youth Room, making it into an all-purpose space for future formation and fellowship activities once the dangers of Covid have subsided.

When it comes to outreach, though, our Christian mandate to love and serve others does not allow for us to spend the pandemic on the sidelines. The presence of Christ's heart and hands in our community is needed now perhaps more than ever. To that end, with the help of the Finance and Endowment Committees, I have asked that we approach outreach here at Grace differently, particularly from a budgetary standpoint.

The system of outreach reflected in the budget when I arrived really only involved a few line items under Mission and Social Witness. To this day, it shows money set aside to offset Diocesan Convention costs, money for our annual pledge to the Diocesan Common Mission Share, and money set aside for FACC. The latter, plus any special collections for FACC, went to purchase our monthly contribution to the pantry. However, the more I became involved with FACC, and since joining the board, I have learned that most other churches ask parishioners to bring in contributions for the pantry (more on this later in the newsletter), and then any money collected or budgeted is given directly to FACC, typically quarterly, to support the shelter. In the last year, I have been shifting us over to that model so that we are supporting both ministries under the FACC umbrella: pantry *and* shelter.

The only other line item that reflects outreach is the Rector's Discretionary Fund. I have relied on that modest allotment for just about everything else (emergency aid, utility assistance, support of other local ministries, sponsorships, various small assistance requests, you name it). Rather than simply boosting that fund substantially, I asked that we create a separate line item under Missions and Social Witness designated "Outreach". This will allow for us to set aside funds for other ministries apart from FACC and allow the Rector's Discretionary Fund to focus solely on community assistance on an individual needs basis as people come to us for help.

That leaves a whole spectrum of ministry open for us to support with funds strictly budgeted for Outreach, which should

have the added bonus of limiting the number of times during the year that we take up special collections. These funds can support anything from passion projects to other ministries with specific missions, like the Humane Society, Voices, the Children's Hands-On Museum, the FSD 145 shoe drive, the Jones-Farrar healthy snack program, etc.

This is not to imply that we haven't been doing ministry. We have just been doing ministry with special collections or one-off events, like the Cub Foods' brat stand, where we raised about \$2,000 that we donated to CONTACT of Northern Illinois. ECW has also done a tremendous amount over the years with their earnings from events like the Rummage Sale and the Eats and Beats Festival. We do very well with these types of ministries, but a designated Outreach fund will enable us to increase and diversify Grace's impact in the community.

There are two caveats with this new Outreach fund, however. One, the money needs to be spent, and it goes without saying that it needs to be spent on outreach. Two, I, Fr. Brian, will not be in charge of spending it. I can make recommendations based on community needs I hear about through the various boards and committees I am on, but ultimately this outreach needs to come directly from the people of Grace. Before the pandemic, I tried to put together an Outreach Crew ("Committee" makes people wary) who would be the stewards of an as yet to be created fund, but then everything shut down and I had to figure out how to be a televangelist. This time we are starting in reverse order. The line item has been created and funded. Now we need the people.

I have already had a couple of people express interest in serving on said "crew". If you would like to be a part of it, please contact me. My hope for this ministry is that it can be fairly organic. Yes, you will need to determine time and frequency of meetings, communication practices, and methods for distribution of funds. Do you want to select ministries to

support monthly? Quarterly? How will you determine who and how much to give? Do you want to put some towards materials for an outreach project of some sort? Let the Holy Spirit and your imagination guide you on the mission. I would like to thank the Finance and Endowment Committees for working on this venture with me, and I look forward to supporting those who answer this call to mission in any way I can. A parish that is active and engaged in its community is a thriving parish, no matter the size. We are blessed to be able to serve Christ and his church by serving others, “and now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.”

Blessings,
Fr. Brian

Finance Committee

The pledge cards are due back by October 7th. It is important to return them in a timely manner so that we can complete the 2022 budget and present it to the Vestry for approval at their November meeting. As always it is a good feeling to get the budget work completed. Thank you for continuing to support Grace Church.

FACC Pantry Items

FACC has reported that pantry use has been down for a number of months, a trend that has been seen among many of the other pantries in Freeport. The cause of this trend isn't really known, though it could point to stimulus monies making it so people do not have to fall back on pantry services. Whatever the reason, FACC's pantry is well stocked for the time being and they have asked churches to hold off on the usual list. They have, however, provided the following list of commonly sought items they will take anytime. Along with these items, instant meals that do not require extra ingredients and can be microwaved and consumed in their container are also needed as they do provide food to some homeless living out of motels.

- Knorr Noodle Packets/meal
 - Chili or Kidney Beans
 - Rice: Instant rice or Knorr/Lipton rice packets/meals
 - Mac N' Cheese: specifically Easy Mac bowls.
 - Canned Tomatoes
 - Mixed Canned Vegetables
- Chef Boyardee Canned Meals

- Personal Items
 - Size 0-1 baby diapers
 - Dish soap
 - Laundry detergent (small or large)
 - Body wash (male or female)
 - Razors – any
 - Shaving Cream – any
 - Hand soap pumps
 - Air freshener or Lysol sprays
 - Toilet paper
 - Paper towels
 - Disinfectant wipes
 - NO NEED FOR HAND SANITIZER

Grace Church News & Upcoming Events

ECW News We've outdone ourselves again! A huge THANK YOU to all the ECW ladies who baked the delicious giant cookies for the Eats and Beats Festival! And thanks to all those (Grace men and women) who worked in our booth...and to those who set up and tore down...and to those who came and bought our cookies. With the help of two generous donations, Grace Church realized a profit of approximately \$777.00 to be used for Outreach! The Vestry will be working on where the need is greatest.

We will not be meeting on the first Friday in October as we will be holding our Rummage Sale that day. Carol and Nicole are working to organize this event. Just in case you are reading this before it begins, the set up date is the morning of September 30th. The sale begins on Friday, October 1st from 8:00 until 2:00, and continues on Saturday morning, October 2nd from 8:00 until noon. We can use everyone's help.

Our next First Friday meeting and lunch will be November 5th at 11:30. Until we meet again...

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Connie B.

cburden43@gmail.com

815-789-3181

Vestry Meeting Sunday, October 17th after the 9:00am service.

Deadline for the November Messenger will be October 22nd.

COVID-19 & Vaccine Myths:

Myth 1: COVID-19 illness confers a “natural immunity” better than vaccines. In fact, both do the same job. They trigger your own natural immune system to develop “killer cells” to attack the foreign virus, or, in the case of vaccines, to attack the noninfectious vaccine that looks like virus to your immune system. After the killer cells have done their work, some become memory cells to stand guard and alert your immune system if they “see” more virus, leading to making lots of killer cells very, very fast. It is that rapid production of killer cells triggered by memory cells that helps reduce the risk of getting serious cases of COVID-19 both for previously ill COVID-19 patients and for vaccinated people.

Nationwide, it is now mostly unvaccinated folks in hospitals and ICUs for COVID-19 and they make up most of the COVID-19 deaths.

Myth 2: If I have been vaccinated, I can not carry virus and can not pass it on to anyone else. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated folks can have virus in their nasopharynx (behind your nose and mouth) and not know it, that is, have none to very few symptoms. Both can breath out, laugh out, shout out, cough out, viral particles that others might inhale. Masks lower the chance of this happening and infecting others. Yes, they also provide important protections by presenting a barrier where virus particles can be trapped before you breath in. Wash cloth masks often in soap and hot water. Do not wash N-95 or medical exam masks, rather dispose of them in the trash after cutting the ear loops to prevent wildlife from becoming entangled.

Masks are an important part of caring for our neighbors, strangers, and ourselves.

Blessings,
Glenn

THE REWARDS OF GENEROSITY

When St. Paul was concerned about the welfare of poor Christians in Jerusalem, he appealed to other churches to help them. The Corinthian church promised a “bountiful gift” which was very pleasing to Paul.

In a letter to the Corinthians, he said, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity...” (2 Corinthians 9:11, *NRSV*).

How could the apostle make such a claim and with considerable assurance?

No doubt it was because he knew that giving always enriches the giver. “I give,” said an older church member, “not because of the needs of the church but because of what giving to the church does for me.”

St. Paul believed that it was like gardening or farming. The grower sows a small number of seeds into the ground, but the payback is the bountiful harvest which comes later. “Give,” said Jesus, “and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap” (Luke 6:38, *NRSV*). In short, no one can outgive God.

Remembering Heidi Downing

It is hard to believe it has been a year since we lost our dear sister in Christ, Heidi Downing. She was such a vibrant and joyful part of the Body of Christ here at Grace Church. Her remains were finally laid to rest in our columbarium at a private family burial on August 6th, with Peggy Isaac officiating, and a celebration of her life was held outdoors at the pavilion over at Faith United Methodist Church on August 7th.

Due to Covid and scheduling, many of her Grace Church family were unable to pay their respects to this woman who meant so much to us all. While we do not dedicate masses to people in the Episcopal tradition, on Sunday, October 10th, the day before the anniversary of her death, we will be offering special prayer in remembrance of Heidi and Fr. Brian will give a special homily in her honor. A memorial has been established in Heidi's memory if you would like to contribute.

Signs of Joy

1. Eagerly greeting each new day as a generous gift from God.
2. Frequent expressions of gratitude for the blessings and challenges which come throughout each day.
3. Finding delight in everyday occurrences: things said by a small child, a cat playing with a ball of string, a dog trying to figure out what you're doing, a funny story in the newspaper, a joke told by a friend, etc.
4. Discovering the taste of a familiar vegetable prepared in a new way.
5. Visiting with a dear friend or family member instead of letting television create the dialogue or interrupt good fellowship.
6. Eagerly looking forward to the next Sunday when you can join the family of God at worship.

October



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

1st Jean Clayton
3rd Thomas Nord, Sr.
20th Raelynn Shore
26th Peggy Isaac

28th Merida Shore
29th Woody Burt
30th Danielle Jacobs
Steve Terpening



9th John & Cynthia Bradbury
14th Larry & Lucy Miller
18th Bernard & Deborah Lischwe
20th Kris & Ashly Shore
Curtis & Stacey Terpening
21st Don & Peggy Isaac
22nd Heather & Ryan Becker
23rd Jeff & Carol Francis

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



October Newsletter