



The Messenger *September 2022*

Rector's Corner

In this month's issue of *The Messenger*, I would like to utilize my space to call attention to a few events that are fast approaching, for you to mark your calendars.

First, on September 17th, the Diocese of Chicago will at long last ordain and consecrate the Rev. Paula Clark as its thirteenth bishop. Having endured a serious brain bleed shortly after her election as our next bishop, and having lost her husband only a few months after that, one might be compelled to reconsider superstitions surrounding the number thirteen. Not her, though. Her perseverance to recover in mind, body, and soul, and her determination to serve as our bishop have been nothing short of inspiring. May her strength invigorate the entire Diocese.

The service is to be held at the Westin Hotel in Lombard, which hosted our Diocesan Conventions in years past prior to COVID, with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry serving as chief consecrator. Out of considerations for both space and COVID, seating was limited to eight tickets per parish in the Diocese. Unfortunately, a combination of my being on vacation and the Google gods arbitrarily tucking emails in whatever folders they choose, I missed all the deadlines for getting tickets for Grace and the ensuing lottery for leftovers. If you had your heart set on seeing the consecration in-person, I am terribly sorry about that.

All is not lost, however. The Diocese will be livestreaming the service at the following address: <https://episcopalchicago.org/>. I intend to host a watch party here at the church, most likely in the sanctuary so that we can sing the hymns and participate in the service virtually. Before the pandemic, I had been putting together a multimedia cart that would have all the tools and connections for making quick and mobile transitions for whatever our parish's A/V needs might be. It is all equipment we already owned, just consolidated and user friendly. I only needed to purchase one component to get the sound where I wanted it, and now we can have an official rollout (literally) for this event.

I hope you can join us for the ordination and consecration of Bishop-elect Clark, Saturday, September 17th. The procession begins at 10:30 a.m. and the service at 11:00 a.m. Let's celebrate this momentous occasion together.

The second event I would like to call your attention to is the Stewardship Brunch, happening the very next day on Sunday, September 18th. This gathering, modeled on a practice at my field parish in Austin, is where we meet in our fellowship hall after the service for some food and to go over a very preliminary budget for the coming year. It gives everyone an opportunity to review Grace's financial picture and ask questions before we ask you to discern how you can support the parish in the coming year. The Finance Committee and the Vestry will be able to gather important input from you well before publishing a final budget at the Annual Meeting in January. Plus, there's food.

Lastly, the annual CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 2nd. Teams will begin gathering at 1:00 p.m. at Debate Square and the walk will commence at 1:30 p.m. There is a one-mile, two-mile, and four-mile route from which walkers can choose.

As in years past, I will be walking as a representative of Grace Church and invite you to join me in the walk as part of a Grace team. If you do not wish to walk, I would ask that you consider donating to our team's collection of funds. Half of the proceeds raised by the various participating teams stays in the community and goes to local food pantries. The CROP Walk Committee, on which I serve, has selected four recipients, including FACC.

Apart from walkers, this year I was asked if Grace Church would serve as a restroom and water stop. I said we would be delighted. To that end, I am seeking one or two volunteers to be onsite at the church to welcome and direct people to our lower-level restrooms, and to keep our water dispensers filled and ecofriendly cups stocked. We are the first station on the walk and all three routes pass by Grace.

I will be accepting donations from now until the morning of the CROP Walk on October 2nd. If you would like to walk as part of the Grace team, please let me know and I will get you an envelope to do a little fundraising within your social circles. Also, please let me know if you would like to volunteer to be at the church to greet walkers as they stop for a break.

I hope that you are able to take part in these events coming up in just a couple of weeks, and I also look forward to being in worship and fellowship with all of you this fall.

Blessings,
Fr. Brian

Treasurer's Report

Below is a summary of the revenue and expenses for the first 7 months of 2022 compared to the first 7 months of 2021.

	2022	2021	Difference
Total Revenue	140774	151550	(10776)
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	77171	73445	3726
Building & Grounds	30183	26174	4009
Diocese Pledge	4958	4492	466
Other	9564	8296	1268
Total Expenses	<u>121876</u>	<u>112407</u>	<u>9469</u>
Gain (Loss)	18898	39143	(20245)

I finally have some good news to report. Our pledge revenue in July was \$52,624. The total for this year is \$140,774 which is \$10,776 less than the first 7 months last year. This is what we would expect to see since our budgeted pledge revenue for 2022 is \$10,000 less than the amount budgeted for 2021.

As far as expenses go, our total for the year is within the range that I would expect to see. Our expenses for the first 7 months of 2022 are \$9,400 more than the first 7 months of 2021. However, our budgeted expenses for 2022 are \$10,000 more than budgeted expenses for 2021 so I am comfortable with our expense so far this year.

It is still too early for me to make any estimates or predictions as to what our results will be at the end of this year. However, since our budget for the year calls for a \$17,000 deficit we will probably have one, but hopefully less than what is budgeted. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Grace Church News & Upcoming Events

FACC Donation for September is crackers or cookies.

FACC Meal Donation Sunday is September 4th.

Ordination and consecration of Bishop-elect Clark,
Saturday, September 17th. The procession begins at 10:30 a.m.
and the service at 11:00 a.m. Let's celebrate together with a
watch party here at Grace.

Stewardship Kick-Off Brunch Sunday, September 18th,
after the 9:00am service.

Deadline for the October "Messenger" will be September
22nd

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.

September



6th Cynthia Bradbury
9th Phyllis Bergagna
Skip Lehnhard
12th Kathy Helm
13th Sue Norman

13th Ashly Shore
20th John Gush
28th Carol Russell
30th Nancy Bender
Cathy Perkins

9th Chad & Katie Enright
23rd Stephen & Susan Lafferty

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

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