



The Messenger

October 2022

Rector's Corner

Grace and peace to you from God and the Lord Jesus Christ!

October is upon us, and my goodness did it arrive in great haste. It should be a rather quiet month for Grace Church, compared to the previous month. Apart from the CROP Walk on October 2nd, there are no major events scheduled on the Church calendar. That means we can all just rest and enjoy God in creation during one of the most beautiful changings of the seasons.

My appreciation for this time of year has grown exponentially after having lived in Texas for three years, where they do not allow seasons. I have always loved the Fall, and to me, October is Fall, and there is no better place to experience Fall than in the Midwest. The changing colors of the leaves, the smell of fields being harvested, cooler weather, trips to the apple orchard, Halloween (my favorite holiday), scary movies, pumpkin carving, corn mazes, and so much more, sing to all my senses as I allow myself to get unabashedly nostalgic.

Oh, and then there is a delicious warm cup of Starbucks' Caramel Apple Spice, which is essentially Fall in a cup (y'all can keep your pumpkin spice lattes).

The November calendar is a bit of a different story, so I would like to call your attention to a few things early to at least get them on your radar. Then I will give you a brief reminder with more specific dates and times as part of November's newsletter.

Sunday, November 13th, will see the return of Grace Church's St. Andrew's Celebration, complete with bagpiper Bill McInnes, back in plaid. Diocesan Convention will be held virtually again this year on Saturday, November 19th. It is the Diocese's 185th Convention and the first with our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Paula Clark. Also looming out there is the ecumenical Thanksgiving event put on by the Freeport Clergy Group, at which we traditionally collect funds for shoes for children in FSD 145, as well as socks. More on that to come.

I would like to direct special attention to the week of November 14th through 18th. That week is part of the national Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which goes from the 12th to the 20th.

Beginning on Monday, November 14th, Freeport Area Church Co-op will engage in a fundraising campaign for its homeless shelter and pantry with multiple opportunities to donate and to participate in learning more about hunger and homelessness here in Freeport. Once again, there will be a station for people to drop off monetary donations, though it will not be downtown as before. Instead, it will be on the move throughout the week to different churches in high-traffic locations – out front of Grace on Stephenson one day, on Park Blvd. outside St. John another day, etc. Volunteers will also be collecting donations at the intersection of Stephenson and Park on that Wednesday, November 16th, at the Kiwanis Peanut Days or the Fire Department's Pass the Boot fundraisers.

The week will culminate in the resurrected Hunger and Homelessness Soup Luncheon, to be held that Friday, November 18th, at St. Thomas Catholic Church on Kiwanis Dr. We have been trying to get this event back up and running for a while now, and this year it looks like we will finally be able to pull it off. As in years past, there will be a brief presentation by FACC's Executive Director, Amy Korte, as well as some musical entertainment. And, of course, there will be a simple meal of soup and bread to provide that modest experiential element of what the hungry and homeless endure on a regular basis.

Finally, there will also be an Open House at FACC's Chicago Ave. Mission and Pantry some time that week. The details have yet to be determined, but Amy plans to give a tour, pointing out a number of new building improvements, as well as providing information about what types of cases they handle and what services they provide. Since Grace is a member of the FACC, and since it is one ministry that we consistently support, I highly encourage all of you to go check it out. See what incredible work they do and learn about the folks that come through there and the many factors that contribute to someone experiencing homelessness.

I pray that you all have a very blessed October, and that you are able to take in the work of the Spirit all around us at this vibrant time of year. And, come November, I hope that you are able to join us in all the various offerings, both here at the Church and in the wider community as we seek to be Christ's heart and hands in the world.

Blessings,
Fr. Brian

All Saints' Sunday is November 6th. So that you can have adequate time to complete and get it returned to the church office we have put the Faithfull Departed sheet in this newsletter.

Treasurer Report

When you read this you should already have received your pledge card for 2023. I have two comments I wish to make on this subject:

We are asking that ALL pledge cards be returned by October 6th. It is important that we receive the pledge cards by this time so that we have a realistic expectation as to what our revenue will be for 2023 and we can finalize the budget. I want to take a preliminary budget to the vestry at their October meeting which will include the amount of pledged revenue for 2023. Please, if you have not completed and returned your pledge card do so ASAP.

The total amount pledged for 2021 was \$164,672 and the amount for 2022 was \$148,452 which was a decrease of \$16,220 or 9.8%. The sad truth is that over the last couple years we have lost several parishioners who have either moved or died. I would like to say that my goal is for every parishioner to increase their pledge by 10% so that we can return to the level of pledges that we were at in 2021. BUT in these challenging time of rising costs I can only ask that before you complete the pledge card, please take time to look at your financial situation and pledge what you can afford. Please do NOT just fill in the blank with the same amount as last year. However, do what you feel comfortable with.

Also, I mentioned the decline in the number of parishioners. I feel that we, the church should focus on increasing our membership which will lessen the financial pressure on all of us. Remember the due date for the return of pledge cards is October 6th. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for continuing to support Grace Church.

Duane Price, Treasurer

815-233-0006

daprice68@yahoo.com

Grace Church News

FACC October Pantry donation is canned tuna, chicken or Spam.

Thank you so much for participating in my 90th birthday surprise card shower! It truly was a surprise and I was heart touched by all the memories and messages. I do love my Grace Church family!! So thanks again for the thoughtfulness.. Phyllis

Weekly Altar Flowers for 2022 Sometime during the month you are signed up for weekly flowers turn in a check for \$33.00 (made out to Grace Episcopal Church). You can put this in the offering plate, turn in to the office or mail to the church. Just indicate on the check that it is for altar flowers.

- 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

Grace Church Upcoming Events

Don't Forget!!! The women of the church are having a kitchen shower October 2nd after our service. Sign up to get an item for our kitchen. Bring your kitchen gift and enjoy seeing all the gifts as well as sharing coffee hour with us.

List of items needed:

- Measuring cups—1 set
- Measuring spoons—2 sets
- Plastic Cutting Board 10" x 14"

FDA Food Code approves only maple and similar close grain hardwoods for cutting boards.

- Zip lock bags (quart and gallon)
- 3 gallon cold beverage dispenser

More expensive items (two or more families could go together)

- Crockpot (6 quart)
- Fry pan (deep with handle, lid and 2nd handle grip)
- 12 white coffee mugs (like the ones we use now)
- 2 soup kettles (11 or 12 quart)
- Hand mixer (portable electric)
- 45 cup coffee urn

The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board downstairs. If you are unable to shop, money donations towards equipment are accepted.

ECW "First Friday" All women of Grace are invited to our monthly gathering on Friday, October 7th at 11:30 in the undercroft. Please bring your own lunch, and join in on some fun and fellowship! We want to hear any program ideas or future outreach projects. Any questions? Please give me a call or an email.

Peace and love,

Connie B.

815-789-3181

cburden43@gmail.com

FACC First Sunday Meal Donation is October 2nd. Our goal is \$100 to \$125 to sponsor a meal for our usual slot of the second Thursday of each month. This money will not be applied towards our pantry donations of canned goods nor to our quarterly shelter donation as a parish, which is already built into our annual budget. Under this model, we are still able to participate in a meaningful way in this ministry, it would distribute the cost among the congregation instead of the individual who signed up for the meal, and no one has to single-handedly cook for that many people.

People of Grace Breakfast Saturday, October 15th at Nine East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, October 16th after the 9:00am service.

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.

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	28th	Merida Shore
3rd	Thomas Nord, Sr.	29th	Woody Burt
20th	Raelynn Shore	30th	Danielle Jacobs
26th	Peggy Isaac		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

Deadline for the November Messenger will be October 21st.

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



October Newsletter