

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



Encourage  
one another  
and build up  
each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

May Newsletter



**The Messenger**  
**May 2023**

## Rector's Message

In early June, I will be departing for a week-long adventure at the Barbara C. Harris Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, New Hampshire. The center's namesake is the late Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, the first woman to be consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion. It is there that I will be attending a CREDO Conference from June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 12<sup>th</sup>.

CREDO Conferences were developed in 1997 by the Church Pension Group as a means for those who serve the Church to engage in an intentional program of personal renewal. This seven-day program targets the spiritual, vocational, financial, physical, and psychological well-being of its attendees. The rate of clergy burnout has grown substantially, which has also resulted in clergy shortage. I know a couple of priests who have decided to "hang it up" for a return to secular industries. CREDO is one way that CPG is reinvesting in its labor force.

To be eligible for attendance, one must be ordained for a minimum of three years, and after attending, there is a waiting period of ten years before one is eligible to attend again.

Invitations are sent out listing the conferences held throughout the year at various locations around the country, and the first thirty people to respond to a particular one, get to go. New Hampshire was the conference that had the most appeal to me, geographically speaking, but when the invitation to attend a

CREDO Conference came, I wound up on a waiting list for this one. Thankfully, a slot opened up and I decided to go for it.

Airfare, lodging, transportation, etc. is pretty much all covered. Attendees pay a flat fee of \$500, which easily fit within the limits of my continuing education, or even my travel budget. Due to the pandemic, it has been about three years since I have been able to use either.

So, come June, Fr. Brian goes to summer camp! Or at least that is what this kind of feels like. It's a bit funny to me because I really did not enjoy summer camps as a kid. I went to Camp Lowden one time as a Boy Scout, got obnoxiously homesick (my own troopmates were annoyed by me), and I never went back. I am very much a homebody. Perhaps this is my chance for redemption.

I am actually looking forward to it – though some of the pre-work would suggest there might be sharing of feelings and even hand holding, which has me slightly suspicious. The work of a pastor is not hard in the sense that you come home from work with blisters on your hands and a body that aches all over. Its difficulty lies in the fact that it is like someone tossing a bucket of balls at you at once, and you must try to catch as many as you can, which gets taxing.

One of the things I love about the work of a priest is the variety – one day I am in a collar bringing communion to a shut-in, and another day I am in a t-shirt and up a ladder fixing something. Another day still, I am holed up in the rector's study reading scripture and theology, and writing. That is all before the commitments to sundry boards and committees.

But that same appealing feature of variety easily lends itself to a sense that my focus and attention are being pulled in every which direction and I am not giving my best efforts to all tasks, some of which get forgotten completely. As someone who likes to attack a project full-force and be done with it, that has been hard to reconcile. Also, one of the first things to be



1st	Jeremy Sigafus	10th	Fr. Brian Prall
2nd	Cheri Haack	11th	Albert Appiah
	Gwynne French		Marsha Holden
3rd	Arneta Reining	16th	Sarah Marten
4th	Susan Bokemeier	20th	Bruce Helm
6th	Gabriella Hornung	21st	Lynn Davis
10th	Erich Moderow	28th	George Davis



5th Mark & Karen Moderow

## Grace Community (continued)

### Grace's Greens

If you're eager to get outside and enjoy spring, plan to join the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society in celebration of the 3rd Annual **World Migratory Bird Day Event**.

The event will be from **10 am to 1 pm on May 13** at the Oakdale Nature Preserve, 4433 S. Cranes Grove Rd, Freeport. The theme for this year's event is "Water." This is a Rain-or-Shine event with use of the Mogle Center and the Oakdale Pavilion in addition to the trails. Co-sponsors of this family-friendly event include the University of Illinois Extension and Your Core Being.

Audubon members will lead hourly hikes at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. to bird watch and look for stream creatures. There will also be a yoga session at 11:00 a.m. with Pat Leitzen-Fye from Your Core Being. There will be a migration obstacle course and tables with educational games and crafts. There will be giveaways while supplies last.

We are seeing significant declines in bird populations world-wide and North American birds have decreased by 30 percent since 1970. That's almost 3 billion birds gone. Find out what you can do to reverse this alarming trend. Information is available on the **Northwest Illinois Audubon Society website**. Also, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology provides **10 ways to help birds**. Please check these resources out and share them with others.

Submitted by Candy Colby

compromised is my spirituality. "Yes! I have checked off this, this, and this off my to-do list, but wasn't there this God person I was supposed to talk to at some point?"

Anyway, it will be good for me to refresh, refocus, and re-God. That means there will be someone presiding in my stead for the Second Sunday after Pentecost on June 11<sup>th</sup>. I guess the CPG did not want to deprive its clergy the joy of celebrating Trinity Sunday by having it a week earlier. In the coming month, I will work out protocols for pastoral emergencies, should they arise. Not sure if the CREDO experience is the type of thing where they take my phone at the gate, though it does have that vibe.

I would appreciate your prayers as I go on this journey, that it may be a fruitful experience in every way. Perhaps I will even write to you – "Hello Grace Church. Hello Vestry. Here I am at Camp...Barbara C. Harris Episcopal Camp and Conference Center." Well, I'll have to workshop that one.

Blessings,  
Fr. Brian

### Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the first quarter 2023 financial results compared to 2022.

	2023	2022	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	86,518	60,779	25,739
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	38,639	33,787	4,852
Building & Grounds	23,074	11,907	11,167
Diocese Pledge	2,250	2,125	125
All Other	7,304	2,612	4,692
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>71,267</u>	<u>50,431</u>	<u>20,836</u>
Gain (Loss)	15,251	10,348	4,903

The revenue in the first quarter of 2023 was \$25,739 more than the first quarter of 2022. This is a timing issue as to when pledges were paid.

The expenses in 2023 were \$20,836 more than in 2022. Here is a list of the items that have created the disparity.

	2023	2022
Property & Liability Insurance	7,074	0
Community Outreach	2,627	0
Security	2,479	1,576
Rector Discretionary Fund	1,624	450
Refrigerator for rectory	1,990	0
Wages	22,416	18,514

Some of these larger expenses in the first quarter are timing issues as to when the expenses were paid.

Thank you,  
 Duane Price, Treasurer  
 815-233-0006  
 daprice68@yahoo.com

## Grace Community

**The ECW Rummage Sale** is Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th.

We are going to be very selective of what donations we accept:

- No computers, TV's, electronic games or exercise equipment
- All clothing must be freshly laundered with no stains
- All dishes freshly washed
- All donated items must be cleaned and sanitized and setup ready

Items can be dropped off at the church during office hours (8:00am—5:00pm) through no later than Wednesday, May 3rd.

We need volunteers, both women and men. There is sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the kitchen or call Linda Locascio at 815-990-3038. Any questions, call Carol Price at 815-541-5536.

### Rummage Sale Hours

Thursday, May 4th	Setup 9:00am to noon or until done
Friday, May 5th	Sale 8:00am to 2:00pm
Saturday, May 6th	Sale 8:00am to noon Clean up noon to 1:00pm

**FACC donation** for May is condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo, etc.)

**People of Grace Breakfast** Saturday, May 20th - 8:00am at Nine East Coffee Shop.

**Vestry Meeting** Sunday, May 21st after the 9:00am service.