



The Messenger

June 2023

Rector's Message

Last month, the Episcopal News Service website featured an article by David Paulsen that served as a bittersweet reminder that all things eventually come to an end.

Paulsen was specifically referencing the end of Michael Curry's tenure as our Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Curry is entering the final year of his nine-year term, having been elected back in 2015. By this time next year, the House of Bishops, with the consent of the House of Deputies, will be voting on a new Presiding Bishop to be installed that following November.

As a lifelong Episcopalian, I cannot say the office of Presiding Bishop is something I knew much about or even gave any thought to. They were always this obscure bishop prayed for during the Prayers of the People. No doubt important, but too far up the chain of command for me to pay much attention.

That changed when I arrived at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas for the fall semester of 2015. My seminary was founded by John Hines, the 22nd Presiding Bishop, who was elected in 1965 and saw the Episcopal Church through the Civil Rights era. Also, that fall Michael Curry, the Diocesan Bishop of North Carolina, was installed as the first Black Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. This was big news in the community and the cause of much excitement, except for me because I really did not know who he was or what having a new Presiding Bishop meant.

Never one to give in to hype about anything, I decided to pay attention to Bishop Curry to see what all the fuss was about. He did not disappoint. His wisdom, compassion, humility, and of course his lightning preaching seldom seen in the pulpits of the Episcopal Church, captured the fascination of more than just Episcopalians. Of course, that is due in large part to his homily at the royal wedding of Harry and Meghan. *Saturday Night Live* did a send up of him after that, and he became an occasional guest and friend of the *Today* show. Little by little, people, myself included, began to realize he is the real deal.

I had the privilege of meeting him at the end of my first year of seminary when he was there to receive an honorary degree. Even got a very blurry selfie with him on my flip phone. We crossed paths about a year later when he came to preach the Eucharist at the Preaching Excellence conference I attended in Virginia. His command of the pulpit is awe-inspiring, and he has said on a number of occasions that he sees himself as “just an old country preacher.”

Over these first five years of my priesthood, I have always appreciated his message and his leadership, especially through national crises and the pandemic. He has been a consistent voice of reason and true Godliness. And while some may not have always agreed with his “big tent” approach to the Episcopal Church, to be the church truly welcoming of all, he has strived to walk the path of love and dignity through it all.

Though it is sad to only have one year left with Bishop Curry at the helm, it will be exciting to see who comes forward to lead the Episcopal Church into the future.

Blessings,
Fr. Brian

Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the first 4 months of 2023 financial results compared to 2022.

	2023	2022	Difference
Total Revenue	93,474	72,443	21,031
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	49,941	47,448	2,493
Building & Grounds	26,489	16,283	10,206
Diocese Pledge	3,000	2,833	167
All Other	8,450	4,052	4,398
Total Expenses	87,880	70,616	17,264
Gain (Loss)	5,594	1,827	3,767

The expenses in 2023 were \$17,264 more than 2022. Here is a list of some of the items that have created the disparity.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Property & Liability Insurance	7,074	0
Community Outreach	2,617	0
Security Fees	2,550	1,576
Rector Discretionary Fund	2,304	407
Refrigerator for rectory	1,990	0

Basically I am pleased with the results so far this year. Also we have taken some of our cash reserves and invested them in certificate of deposits to take advantage of high interest rates.

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

Grace Community

ECW -First Friday Fellowship All are invited to our (mostly) monthly ECW lunch gathering on Friday, June 2nd at 11:30. Please bring your own sack lunch. Coffee and tea are on the house! I know we'll be discussing the successful Rummage Sale and the possibility of a lunch this summer at a nearby venue. I hope to see you all there! If you need a ride, please let me know.

Peace,

Connie B.

cburden43@gmail.com

815-789-3181

People of Grace Breakfast Saturday, June 17th - 8:00am at 9 East Coffee Shop.

Vestry Meeting Sunday, June 18th after the 9:00am service.

FACC June's donation is canned soup.

Coffee hour sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. No need for anything elaborate (cookies or donuts will do). Coffee and juice are provided by the church. When you sign up you are responsible for cleaning up afterwards.

The Summer Travels of Fr. Brian

CREDO Conference, New Hampshire: June 6 – June 12 (I will miss Sunday the 11th)

Ellen's 40th B-Day Getaway, Kentucky: June 19 – June 24 (No Sunday's missed)

Prall Family Vacation, New York: July 24 – August 8 (Miss Sunday July 30th and August 6th)

Grace's Greens

Do An Environmental Good Deed Close to Home

You can contribute to a worthwhile community project while not giving up anything...except food scraps that would otherwise end up in the trash on their way to the local landfill where they don't do any good at all. Join **Freeport Community Composting**. Food scraps are collected on an ongoing basis at the Freeport Student Garden where they are turned until becoming nutrient-rich compost. To participate, you must register and get a bucket with lid (for a nominal, refundable \$5 deposit).

Freeport Community Composting began in Summer 2022. With funding from the Freeport Community Foundation, the Freeport High School along with local partners (Environmental Study Group, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and University of Illinois Extension for Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Winnebago Counties) ran a successful pilot project last year. More than 4,000 pounds of food waste was collected which generated 1,009 gallons of compost that has been spread and worked into the student gardens located behind the Freeport Middle School. For questions and sign up, contact Ben Skipor at ben.skipor@fsd145.org. You may also contact Deborah Lischwe at deborahlischwe@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Deborah Lischwe

Grace's Greens (continued)

The biologist, E.O. Wilson, called insects “the little things that run the world”, referring to the disproportionate role that they and other invertebrates play in food webs, ecosystem services, and generating and maintaining biological diversity. They pollinate 90% of the flowering plants on earth; and they eat plants, the crucial first step in changing plant energy into the fats and proteins that feed hosts of other animals. In so doing, insects sustain Earth’s ecosystems. Yet globally, insect populations have declined by 47% since 1974, a loss that translates into a decline in the very ecosystems that sustain all life on earth, humans included! How can we reverse this trend? By planting native plants!

In Nature’s Best Hope, author Doug Tallamy suggests selecting native plants that support two important insect groups: large, nutritious insects (think caterpillars of butterflies and moths) and bees. Caterpillars are the mainstay of most bird diets; and native bees perform the lion’s share of pollination. We can start by eliminating an area of grass in our lawns and making a planting bed for native plants and grasses... and even a pot on a patio planted with native flowers makes a difference!

The National Wildlife Federation has compiled listings for every county in the U.S. www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder and The National Audubon Society native plants database lists the best native plants for birds. www.audubon.org/native-plants.

As we learn more about the wonders of nature, it’s humbling to reflect that God in His wisdom selected the “littlest things” to play the most important roles!

Submitted by Candy Colby



2nd	Laura Watson	13th	Nicholas Smith
3rd	Connie Olson	18th	Mackenzie Francis
4th	Colton Terpening	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



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 21st.

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



1 Samuel 2:2

June Newsletter