



## *The Messenger* *August 2023*

### *Rector's Corner*

In this blessed month of August, often it can feel like an oven outside. And let me tell you, three years in Texas did nothing to boost my tolerance for the heat.

That is okay, though, because I have the perfect indoor activity for us, which, ironically, necessitates a conventional oven. Grace Church will once again be participating in the Eats & Beats Festival, where we will be selling our now famous, our now expected, our now demanded Giant Cookies. So, bakers, start your ovens!

Eats & Beats, now in its fourth year, will be held on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Freeport's Arts Plaza across from the Public Library. Again, this event, dreamed up by the good people at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises, features food vendors made up entirely of local non-profits, of which Grace Church is the only participating church. While attendees enjoy the scrumptious offerings and support local non-profits in the process, they are entertained by a lineup of live musical acts.

As in previous years, I will be putting up two signup sheets. The first and most critical is for the bakers. Our product for the festival is *giant cookies, approximately 4 inches in diameter, individually packaged and labeled in zip-lock baggies*. We welcome a variety of flavors, but your classics tend to sell the best – anything with chocolate, peanut butter, oatmeal raisin, sugar cookie, snickerdoodle, etc. Bakers may drop their cookies off at

the church starting Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The more bakers, the more cookies we have to sell, the more money we raise!

The second signup sheet will be for shifts at the festival itself – setting up, staffing, and taking down our booth. Volunteers will receive wristbands ahead of time. Eats & Beats will still be operating on a cashless system, but instead of attendees buying tickets at the gate like before, this year they will be getting tokens (akin to the little plastic Culver's ice cream tokens). A token is worth a dollar, and we sell each of our giant cookies for a dollar, so those working the booth simply provide the customer with their desired cookie and collect the token. It is that easy!

Each booth will also receive two complimentary cases of water and two bags of ice to add to their sales for an agreed upon price, typically a dollar. When the festival is over, the amount of money collected will be determined by the weight of tokens collected. Malcolm Eaton apparently has a very precise scale for this process. Last year we did very well, and nearly ran out of cookies.

The times for the festival have changed again. Each year the event organizers adjust based on what they learn from crowd patterns the year before. The festival runs from 5:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. both Friday and Saturday. Booths need to be ready to sell by 5:00 p.m. each day. There is an afternoon Bags Tournament on Saturday from 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Booths may be open during that time, but it is optional. Maybe cookies improve throwing accuracy...?

The baking can be time consuming, and ingredients have practically tripled due to inflation. The booth is fairly low maintenance, but it does require time commitment outside in the aforementioned heat of August. However, it is hard to beat the exposure this festival provides for Grace Church. We are essentially paid to advertise, putting ourselves out there to the wider public, while at the same time raising money to be Christ's heart and hands in Freeport.

For more information, recipes, or even to share ideas on what to do with the proceeds, please get in touch with me.

Peace, Fr. Brian

### **Pral Family Vacation**

The Pralls are on their annual vacation to the Adirondacks till late August 8<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Brian will be gone Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to the limited availability of supply clergy, Liturgy of the Word will be held on that Sunday. Fr. Brian will be reachable via email and from there can get to town where there is better cell service to check in.

### **Gifts**

God waved a large, majestic hand  
And gave us sky and trees and land.  
God gave us birds to chirp each morn  
And stout, young rows of bright green corn.  
God gave us forests in whose shadows deep  
Deer keep watch as their children sleep.  
God gave us clouds of fluffy white  
To shield us from the sun's bright light.  
God gave us homes to keep us warm,  
To keep us secure and safe from harm.  
In short, God gave us all he could;  
God gave us all things great and good.

— Unknown

## ***Grace Church News***

**FACC Donation** for August is jelly.

**ECW News for August** All women of Grace Church are invited to attend the First Friday gathering on August 4th at 11:30am. Please bring your own brown bag lunch. We will be discussing the opportunity to help with our Eats and Beats fundraiser. This year's dates are August 25th and 26th. Our booth has become a favorite! There will be a sign up sheet for you to choose the kind of giant cookies you will be baking.

For questions, please call, text or email me.

Peace,

Connie B.

815-789-3181

cburden43@gmail.com

**People of Grace Breakfast** Saturday, August 19th at Nine East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

**Vestry Meeting** Sunday August 20th after the 9:00am service.

**Rock River Canoe/Kayak Trip** Saturday September 9th. Briefly, the plan is to drift/paddle from Oregon to our house on the Rock River. Even if you don't want to get on the water please join us for lunch. Please mark your calendars, full details to follow.  
Allison and John Gush

### **News from Grace's Greens**

Perhaps you were as alarmed as I was to learn that the Earth's average temperature set a new high on July 4. June 2023 was the hottest June ever and of the five hottest Junes on record, all have occurred in the past five years. As we saw smoke from the

out-of-control fires in Canada, devastating floods in New England and the Southwest baking in record heat, it's obvious that climate change is ominously staring us in the face. While the U.S. is finally starting to make significant investments in clean energy, we are also now the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, which could undermine our other efforts to reduce CO2 emissions. As Christians, we are all aware of our responsibility to care for God's creation. We need to keep pressure on our elected officials to make the transition to renewable energy quickly. We also need to look at our own carbon footprint to see how we can reduce it as much as possible. The amount of human misery that can be avoided and the survival of many of the other incredible species that share the earth with us depends on actions we take now to halt CO2 emissions and begin to reverse climate change.

There will be a presentation on **community solar** on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at the Freeport Public Library at 11 a.m. This is sponsored by the Environmental Study Group and Citizens Utility Board. Community solar allows you to sign up for a subscription to a solar field and is a good alternative if installing solar panels on your property is not feasible. You will still receive your electricity from ComEd; however, by signing up, your electricity will be produced by solar panels rather than by a fossil fuel or nuclear power plant. **This program is available to individuals, businesses, non-profits, and churches.** Depending on your income, you can save 20% to 50% on your electric bill. The presentation will last about 20 minutes and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and to sign up for community solar. If you're interested in signing up, bring a copy of your ComEd bill.

Candy Colby

## Treasurer's Report

Below is an analysis comparing the actual results for the first six months of the year.

	2023	2022	Per Cent of Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>	118,810	219,832	54%
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	71,131	138,922	51%
Building & Grounds	37,786	50,767	74%
Other	16,042	30,550	53%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>124,959</b>	<b>220,239</b>	<b>57%</b>
Gain (Loss)	(6,149)	(407)	

Since this report is for the first six months of the year, we would expect our revenue and expenses to be around 50% of the annual budget. Our total expenses paid are 57% of our budget for the whole year. The reason it is more than 50% is because of our Buildings & Grounds expenses which is because 70% of our annual heating costs and all of our property & liability premiums (\$14,000) are paid in the first half of the year. I expect that the percentage of the amounts paid for Building & Grounds and our Total Expenses will come down as the year progresses. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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

# August



2nd Marissa Routson  
7th Kris Shore  
Charla Spann  
9th Becca Francis  
12th Amanda Mitchell  
17th Connie Burden

21st Curtis Terpening  
24th Shirlee Iverson  
30th Madalynn Enright  
31st Stacey Terpening  
Colin Helm

8th Jon & Laura Watson  
18th Chuck & Sandy Terpening  
19th Wayne & Diane Conroy  
26th John & Connie Burden  
27th Brian & Donna Dreier  
Jeremy & Jackie Sigafus  
29th Nicholas & Claudia Smith

**Deadline** for the September "Messenger" will be August 21st

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**JOY!**

August Newsletter