



# The Messenger

## October 2023

### Rector's Corner

A couple of Sundays ago, during announcements, I mentioned wanting to try resolving two issues with one maneuver: lack of coffee hour hosts and lack of Christian formation.

Coffee hour has, at least in my time here, been a difficult ministry to fulfill. Volunteer hosts graciously donate time and money to provide food; the Church provides coffee, tea, and their various additives; and folks kick in a couple bucks as the Spirit moves them, which goes toward the purchase of more coffee, cream, sugar, and other necessities. It is a model that asks a lot of those who volunteer to host, and it is a model I have offered a few times to help reimagine in order to ease the burden and entice more participants, but to no avail.

For a while now, there have been many Sundays that have gone unfilled on the signup sheet, only to be picked up at the last minute by the same folks that already host a lot. Part of the reason is simply that our pool of volunteers has shrunk. The rest I can only speculate – time, money, apprehension about the new dishwasher, do not know what to serve? My field education parish was large, and one Sunday there might be a tin of sugar cookies that are only a smidge softer than hardtack (I know, I have eaten hardtack), and then the next Sunday there might be the youth group putting on a full taco bar to make all of Texas proud. The point is, it can be as simple or elaborate as the host desires, and the rest of us will rejoice and be glad in it regardless.

The other issue is a lack of Christian formation, which is far more concerning to me since it is part of a priest's vocation in accordance with the Canons to provide religious instruction. Time is always the major issue, though. There is never a time that is going to work for everyone, but we have done Friday morning Bible studies, Thursday morning theology studies, evening spirituality studies on Zoom, and some variety of each after church, all of which have fallen flat. Then again, I suppose it could be me and, like Taylor Swift, I'm the problem. However, whenever I do a survey of the congregation, one of the things that consistently comes up is the desire for Christian formation.

People work during the day, do not like to drive at night, come from far away, or just want to enjoy the casual fellowship of coffee hour, all of which is understandable. Sunday is the one day we are all here. So here is what I am proposing: On October 8<sup>th</sup>, and all subsequent Second Sundays of the month, I will host Christian formation in the former youth room in lieu of coffee hour. There will still be coffee to drink, and those just wanting to converse over a cup are welcome to do so in St. Stephen's Hall. But, for those who wish to participate in Christian formation, we will meet down the hall in the All Purpose Room, or Room of Requirement.

The idea for this came one Sunday when no one had signed up to host coffee hour. I got downstairs after hanging up my vestments and everyone had already left. Now, coffee hour has always been presented to me as a reason why we cannot have Christian formation after Church, so the thought was, what if there is no coffee hour? Just one Sunday a month. There would be nothing to impede a gathering for educational pursuits, which could still include coffee, of course, and there would be one less Sunday to worry about having coffee hour coverage.

I hope you are amenable to trying this for a few months, and then, after the New Year, we can evaluate and adjust as needed. I look forward to being in fellowship and formation (and coffee) with you this fall on the second Sunday of each month.

Blessings, Fr. Brian

## Server Schedule

### October 1st

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Phyllis Bergagna  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### October 8th

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** Candy Colby  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

### October 15th

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Martha Furst  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### October 22nd

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** John Gush  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

### October 29th

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** Laurie Gungel  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

If you are unable to serve on the dates assigned, please make sure you get someone to replace you and notify the church office.

## ***Treasurer Report***

Below is an analysis comparing the actual results for the first eight months of this year to the annual budget.

	8 Months Results	2023 Annual Budget	Per Cent of Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>	153,665	219,832	70%
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	91,719	138,922	66%
Building & Grounds	41,905	50,767	83%
Other	<u>19,372</u>	<u>30,550</u>	<u>63%</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	152,996	220,239	69%
Gain (Loss)	669	(407)	

After 8 months we seem to be right on target with our budget.

Please call me if you have any questions.

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

**Pledge Cards** due back by Friday, October 13th.

***Mark your calendars*** St Andrews Day November 19th. We will be celebrating again at our regular service with bagpipe and plaid. Watch the bulletin boards for food sign up sheets.

Mike Shore

## ***Grace Church News***

***Choir Practice*** Every Wednesday at 6:00pm.

***FACC First Sunday Meal Donation*** is October 1st. 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.

***ECW.....FIRST FRIDAY*** Please join the ECW ladies on October 6th at 11:30 in the undercroft. Coffee and tea is provided, but you will need to bring your own lunch. We have lots to discuss, and maybe even a fun activity! If you have any questions please Contact Connie Burden 815-789-3181 or [cburden43@gmail.com](mailto:cburden43@gmail.com)

***Christian Formation Class*** Sunday, October 8th after Sunday Service in the All Purpose Room (formerly called the Youth Room).

***Vestry Meeting*** Sunday, October 15th after the 9:00am service.

***People of Grace Breakfast*** Saturday, October 21st, 8:00am at Nine East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

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

***All Saints' Sunday*** is November 5th. 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.



# 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



*Happy  
Anniversary!*

9th	John & Cynthia Bradbury
14th	Larry & Lucy Miller
18th	Bernard & Deborah Lischwe
20th	Kris & Ashly Shore
	Curtis & Stacey Terpening
22nd	Heather & Ryan Becker
23rd	Jeff & Carol Francis

Deadline for the November newsletter is October 24th.

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



October Newsletter