

Grace Episcopal Church  
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Encourage  
one another  
and build up  
each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

May Newsletter



**The Messenger**  
**May 2024**

## Rector's Message

The Great Fifty Days of Easter are swiftly coming to a close; we are nearly two-thirds of the way through as I write this. Time flies when you are rejoicing in the risen Christ.

That means the Day of Pentecost, when we commemorate the arrival of the gift of the Holy Spirit, is just around the corner – on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, to be precise. Tradition designates Pentecost as the “birthday” of the Church. The Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples like a rushing wind, after which their mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ takes a more deliberate path that eventually leads to the corporate Body of Christ, the Church. The rest is history. And churches celebrate this festive occasion by wearing red, reading the Pentecost story (sometimes in multiple languages), waving banners or images of doves, or dabbling in assorted special effects.

A couple of years ago, I adopted a Pentecost celebration I believe I first saw at Grace Church in Sterling, where the congregation brought “birthday gifts” for the parish on Pentecost, festively wrapped in red. Everyone there seemed to have fun with it, so I thought, why not give it a whirl here. I invited you all to bring practical items we regularly use throughout the year: reams of paper, office supplies, cleaning supplies, and door stops, which were oddly inspired by the Exodus story that year.

This year, I would like to resurrect that idea with a special

twist. As I wrote about in April's issue of *The Messenger*, Grace is partnering with the local nonprofit Hope WINS by opening our old Youth Center to their summer camp program. Hope WINS founder, Linsey McDanel, gave a wonderful presentation about her organization last Sunday at coffee hour, for which I have heard glowing feedback from many of you. Since several parishioners have asked how else Grace Church can support Linsey in her ministry beyond building space, I pitched the idea to those in attendance at her presentation that we do the Pentecost "birthday gift" thing again, only this time, instead of gifts for the church, we have Linsey make a wish list of materials needed for her summer camp. Parishioners would acquire items off her list and bring them on Pentecost (wrapped in red, if the Spirit moves you), and I will do a special blessing over them.

The idea was met with enthusiasm from those present, so I will be asking Linsey to compile a list of needs as soon as she can so that I can share it with all of you.

Switching gears entirely, I wanted to get the annual Eats & Beats Festival on your radar. Though it is not until late August, planning meetings with Malcolm Eaton's staff have already commenced. Our Giant Cookie booth has become a popular staple of the festival, and it is a great way to get ourselves out of the church and into the community. Soon I will be recruiting our army of talented bakers to supply the cookies, and I will also be looking for volunteers to staff the booth during the festival itself.

I will provide more details about the festival later, but for now the setup and operation will be nearly identical to last year. Grace's operation, however, will change a smidge. The first thing is pricing. Last year, we had an internal debate about raising the price from its historic level of one dollar per giant cookie to two dollars. There were strong feelings and valid points from either side, so I decided to poll my fellow nonprofit representatives at Eats & Beats' first meeting. The feedback was unanimous that we would be crazy not to raise our price to two dollars.



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's Greens

Upcoming workshop: Our Future Home: How switching to electric appliances can reduce our carbon footprint, lower energy costs and protect our health

When: May 2, 2024, 6:30-7:30 pm

Where: Freeport Public Library

Sponsored by the Environmental Study Group, League of Women Voters Freeport, Sierra Club and Citizens Utility Board.

Reducing emissions in the places we work, play and live is important for and beneficial to our state's climate as well as the individual health and finances of every citizen. Learn about important rebates which will be coming in 2024 for switching to more efficient electric appliances.

We will also be discussing the Clean and Healthy Buildings Act - an upcoming bill in the Illinois state legislature that would create a plan to reduce building emissions in Illinois.

Participants will have the opportunity to give feedback and ask questions regarding electrification and the Clean and Healthy Buildings Act.

Other feedback that I have received from those on the ground selling is that festival goers preferred classic cookies, especially with chocolate. We ran out of chocolate chip, M&M, and Reese's Pieces cookies rather early, but those were the cookies still requested throughout the festival. Hear me when I say that does not mean we forego other flavors. It simply means we lean our baking supply more heavily to customer demand.

Lastly, having been participants in Eats & Beats since its inception, Grace has always raised money with the intention of donating it to a charitable cause. The problem is we never have a designated charity in mind until after the festival is over, and I think it would be in everyone's interest to note at our booth who the funds will be going to support. Last year, I think I divided them up between the Children's Hands-On Museum and Hope WINS. That said, most of the obvious potential recipients will have their own booths – VOICES, Salvation Army, RAMP, YMCA, Friends Forever Humane Society, Malcolm Eaton, and even Hope WINS is getting in on the fun. The Children's Hands-On Museum and Rebuilding Together Stephenson County are certainly worthy candidates who will not have booths, and there is always our go-to ministry, FACC, but I would prefer to select just one instead dividing our proceeds up into smaller, less impactful pieces. If you have a thought on this, please let me know.

I hope you all have a spectacular May, and I hope our Mid-western transition from spring to summer ceases to be so erratic.

Blessings,  
Fr. Brian

### Hope WINS Gala, May 11<sup>th</sup>

The fundraising Gala for Hope WINS will be at the Apple Canyon Club, Saturday, May 11th. Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 7:00, and a Comedian will perform at 8:00. There will also be a silent auction. Tickets are \$50. Please call Linsey McDanel at 815-238-3467 to get your tickets today!

## Treasurer's Report

Below is an analysis comparing the actual results for the first three months of 2024 to 2023.

	2024	2023	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	81,281	86,518	(5,237)
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	40,414	38,639	1,775
Building & Grounds	12,308	16,000	(3,692)
Property & Liability Insurance		7,074	(7,074)
All Other	<u>5,901</u>	<u>9,554</u>	<u>(3,653)</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	58,623	71,267	(12,644)
Gain (Loss)	<u>22,658</u>	<u>15,251</u>	<u>7,407</u>

The good news in this comparison is that expenses for the first 3 months of this year are \$12,644 less than last year. However, in order to have a fair comparison, we need to take out the \$7,074 spent last year for Property & Liability insurance. That payment last year was an oddity and if we take that out of last year's total our expenses this year are still \$5,570 less than last year.

I would say that is good news so far.

Duane Price, Treasurer  
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## Grace Community

**ECW First Friday** Instead of our monthly ECW First Friday lunch, the women of Grace will be helping with our Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 4th. Set up will be Thursday, May 2nd. (see Rummage Sale article printed in the Newsletter) Hope to see you there!

### Rummage Sale Hours

Thursday, May 2nd Setup 9:00am to noon or until done  
Friday, May 3rd Sale 8:00am to 2:00pm  
Saturday, May 4th Sale 8:00am to noon  
Clean up noon to 1:00pm

**Christian Formation** Sunday, May 12th after the church service.

**People of Grace Breakfast** Saturday, May 18th - 8:00am at Nine East Coffee Shop.

**Vestry Meeting** Sunday, May 19th after the 9:00am service.

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

**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.

**Deadline** for the June newsletter will be May 21st.