



The Messenger *September 2024*

Rector's Corner

Several years ago (pre-pandemic), I attended a workshop at our Diocesan Convention that was an introduction to the College of Congregational Development, a weeklong intensive offered by the diocese to teach skills for building healthy, vital congregations.

Part of the presentation focused on Church Size Theory, which, depending on what resource you consult, is a taxonomy for churches based on several factors like average Sunday attendance (ASA), church governance, the role of clergy within the parish, group dynamics, and even the characteristics behind church disputes (something the chart simply calls “fights”). For example, a Family size parish has an ASA of under 75, is group-centered, governed by key family or families, where the pastor is essentially a chaplain, and fights are family feuds. The next largest is Pastoral size, followed by Transitional size, then Program size, and finally Resource size, which would be the experience of my friend, Spencer, who serves as one of the clergy staff at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

Generally speaking, Grace Church fits within the parameters of a Family size parish, which makes up about 47% of all Episcopal parishes. Obviously, some of the factors might not precisely correspond with Grace Church, and there may be some overlap with the other size categories. One such overlap that has me particularly excited is a characteristic of larger churches having new groups forming and programs offered.

So, I thought it behooved me to create and share with you a program schedule for Grace, which goes into effect this month, so that everyone is aware who is in the building when, where, and why. It was an educational experience playing air traffic controller from New York while I was on vacation so our groups and Mac Camp did not conflict with one another, but having a stated calendar will hopefully make life easier on everybody. Without further ado, it is my pleasure to share with you Grace Episcopal Church's program schedule:

- Choir – meets Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. in St. Stephen's Hall.
- ECW – meets 1st Friday of each month, 11:30 a.m. in St. Stephen's Hall, BYO Lunch.
- Love Hopes Grief Group – meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Guild Room. This is a closed group for parents who have lost children.
- Family Success Program (Hope WINS) – meets 3rd Thursday of each month, 5:00-7:00 p.m., location TBD. This is an education and coaching program for parents.
- Family Support Group – meets the last Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. in the All-Purpose room (former youth room). Run by Janelle Nelson, this is a support group for parents, particularly of special needs children, but it is Open to anyone. Hope WINS provides childcare.

Mac Camp will also be hosting a handful of day camps throughout the semester – basically scheduled days off from school – as well as mini camps during winter and spring breaks. I will post this schedule on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

It is an exciting time for Grace Church as we are starting to bear good fruit. May this fruit continue to flourish, and may the Holy Spirit continue the thrive at Grace Church.

Peace,
Fr. Brian

CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 6th. Teams will begin gathering at 1:00 p.m. at Debate Square, and the walk will commence at 1:30 p.m. There is a one-mile, two-mile, and four-mile route from which walkers can choose. If you would like to walk as part of the Grace Team, please let Fr. Brian know. If you would like to donate to CROP Walk, Fr. Brian will be collecting donations as well right up until the morning of the walk. Checks can be made out to: CWS/CROP.

The Hand of God

God's gentle Hand is guiding,
But it doesn't push or shove,
Instead it clasps our human hands
And leads with Grace and Love.

We find within this Hand of God
A heavenly Strength indeed,
And as we follow, God provides
For what we truly need.

—Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems

Treasurer's Report

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

	7 Months Results	2024 Annual Budget	Per Cent of Budget
Total Revenue	137,322	219,227	63%
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	83,934	144,472	58%
Building & Grounds	26,633	36,650	73%
Property & Liability Insurance	8,043	16,086	50%
Other	<u>16,538</u>	<u>32,300</u>	<u>51%</u>
Total Expenses	135,148	229,508	59%
Gain (Loss)	2,174	(10,281)	

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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

Annual Stewardship Kick-Off Brunch Sunday, September 29th,
after the 9:00am service.

Grace Church News & Upcoming Events

ATTENTION ECW LADIES...all are welcome! September's FIRST FRIDAY ECW gathering will be held on Friday, the 6th, at 11:30. Please bring your own sack lunch. Coffee and tea are always available. We can discuss the Eats and Beats Festival, what we may want to do in the coming months, opportunities with our Deanery and Diocesan ECW, and enjoy our time together. Please let me know if you are unable to join us.

Peace and Blessings, my sisters in Christ,

Connie B.

cburden43@gmail.com

815-789-3181

FACC Donation for September is crackers or cookies.

FACC First Sunday Meal Donation is Sunday, September 1st. Our goal is \$100 to \$125 to sponsor a meal for our usual slot of the second Thursday of each month.

Choir Practice resumes September 4th at 6:00pm.

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

Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 18th at 10:00am.

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

Deadline for the October "Messenger" will be September 21st

Server Schedule

September 1st

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo
Lector: Claudia Smith
Acolyte: Lucy Prall
Ushers: Jon Watson

September 8th

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Carol Francis
Lector: Gail Hunt
Acolytes: Lucy Prall
Ushers: Stan Crowe & Jeff Francis

September 15th

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Chuck Terpening
Lector: John Gush
Acolyte: Lucy Prall
Ushers: Jon Watson

September 22nd

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo
Lector: Gail Hunt
Acolyte: Lucy Prall
Ushers: Stan Crowe & Jeff Francis

September 29th

9:00 **Chaliciest:** Carol Francis
Lector: Candy Colby
Acolyte: Lucy Prall
Ushers: 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.

September



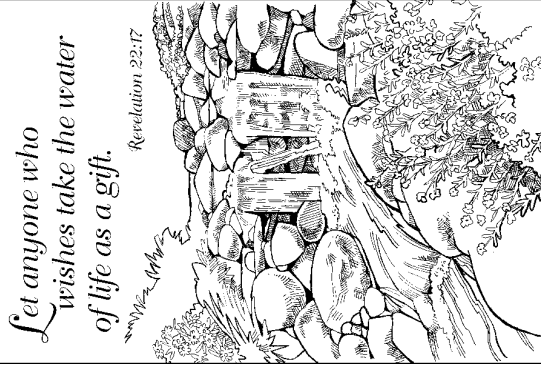
9th Phyllis Bergagna
Skip Lehnhard
12th Kathy Helm
13th Sue Norman

15th Ashly Shore
20th John Gush
28th Carol Russell
30th Nancy Bender
Cathy Perkins

9th Chad & Katie Enright
23rd Stephen & Susan Lafferty

- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
—Anonymous
- People see God every day; they just don't recognize him.
—Pearl Bailey
- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God is right there to offer you strength and guidance.
—Anonymous

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



September Newsletter