



# The Messenger

November 2024

## Rector's Message

The New Testament contains thirteen epistles attributed to the Apostle Paul (I guess the compilers of the canon were not terribly superstitious about numbers). Seven are believed by scholars to be the authentic work of Paul – Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon – while the other six – Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus – are believed to have been penned by others in the style of Paul; a form of flattery in the ancient world.

Regardless of authorship, one of the common characteristics of the Pauline letters is the salutation, “Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ,” or some comparable formula. I have borrowed this greeting from time to time to open these newsletters or other communications to you, the people of Grace Church; my own little homage to Paul’s perfect salutation.

There is another characteristic of the Pauline letters that follows immediately after this salutation, and that is an expression of *thanksgiving* for the congregation to which he is writing. For example, in Paul’s letter to the Romans, he says, “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed through out the world.” In 1 Corinthians, he writes, “I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him.

With the holiday of Thanksgiving on the horizon, I just simply wanted to take this moment to say unto you all, "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you."

There is no "season" for gratitude; gratitude should be a regular practice in our daily life of prayer and personal relations. But the celebration of Thanksgiving certainly serves as a pronounced reminder that we have much for which to be grateful, and, again, I am grateful for all of you and your commitment to Christ and his ministry through Grace Church.

Blessings,  
Fr. Brian

#### Fr. Brian will be away two Sundays

On Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Brian and Ellen will be off on their annual fall getaway. Martha Furst has graciously agreed to lead the Liturgy of the Word. Then on the Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Prall family will be in Houston for a family wedding. Chuck Terpening has graciously agreed to lead the Liturgy of the Word on that Sunday. Living essentially in a supply clergy desert, the Prall family is always grateful for our lay leaders stepping up, especially helping to lead worship in Fr. Brian's absence.

#### A Note about the Priest's Discretionary Fund

In October, we did an open plate offering to "beef up" my discretionary fund going into the holiday season. No sooner had we done that than I hung a large orange sign on the door stating, admittedly rather curtly, that we are completely out of funds. Given your generosity toward that fund, I feel an explanation is owed.

This fund, as you know, is used to assist people with utilities and rent, with checks being written directly to the companies and landlords. Grace's location makes us a convenient stop for people who are down on their luck, or, in

some instances, are adept at “gaming the system.” I also found out last year that the water department, which is kiddie corner from us, has taken it upon themselves to refer people to us, since we are just across the street and usually provide some assistance.

I am given an annual budget, which I stretch as best I can throughout the year. It is supplemented by private contributions, and honorariums I am paid for funerals are typically put back into the fund to help give it a boost, if I am not spending it on other incidentals for the church. Most bills are beyond my ability to pay more than a portion of the total owed, but the people we help are typically grateful and we make it work.

Over the years, I have gotten to know the regulars who come to us for help, as well as their habits. There are a few who, after I assist them, have the habit of going out and telling all their friends and family that the church with the red doors is giving away free money. Well, one such individual came the Tuesday after the open plate collection. Six separate visits, sometimes in pairs, were made in the hours that followed, and some seemed quite entitled when we said we were out of funds because we had “helped their cousin” a few hours before.

So, that is the story behind the sign, though it hardly prevents folks from ringing the buzzer anyway and pleading that their case is an exception. I did not want anyone thinking we collected the funds and I went out to one of Freeport’s many slot machine establishments, or otherwise spent it inappropriately. The money is still here. I am just taking a harder line on assisting people right now so that it is available late November and December when it will surely be needed. Those individuals who evangelize about our generosity will be warned not to do so if they wish to receive any help in the future.

Thank you for your generosity to this part of our ministry, and for your understanding.

## Treasurer's Report

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

	9 Months Results	2024 Annual Budget	Per Cent of Budget
<b>Total Revenue</b>	163,638	219,227	75%
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	108,842	144,472	75%
Building & Grounds	42,909	36,650	117%
Property & Liability Insurance	8,043	16,086	50%
Other	<u>19,901</u>	<u>32,300</u>	<u>62%</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	179,695	229,508	78%
Gain (Loss)	(16,057)	(10,281)	

Please call me if you have any questions.

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

**Finance Committee Report** Thank you if you have returned your pledge card. And more good news...we continue to happily accept pledges. The 2025 budget will be completed and presented to the vestry for approval at the December vestry meeting.

*November*



Wish These Friends a  
"Happy Birthday!"

3rd	Katie Enright	10th	Ingrid Standish
	Sandra Terpening	11th	Diane Conroy
4th	Dorothy Nord	12th	Molly Doolittle
	Kate Worthington	21st	Brian Dreier
6th	Richard Hepner		Gary Downing
7th	Jacquelyn Sigafus	30th	Sonny Rogers



10th	Gregg & Shannon Lizer
23rd	Albert & Evelyn Appiah

**Deadline** for the December Messenger will be November 19th.

## ***Grace Church News***

***Reminder*** Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3rd. Don't forget to set your clocks back one (1) hour.

***ECW First Friday Lunch***, November 1st at 11:30am. Bring your own lunch.

***FACC First Sunday Meal Donation*** is Sunday, November 3rd. Our goal is \$100 to \$125 to sponsor a meal for our usual slot of the second Thursday of each month.

***People of Grace Breakfast*** November 16th, 8:00am, at Nine East Coffee Shop. Please join us.

### ***St. Andrews Sunday – November 17<sup>th</sup>***

Our traditional observance of Grace's "adopted patron saint," St. Andrew will take place on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Piper Bill McInnes will be joining us once again for our worship that day, for which we are ever grateful. After the service, we will have our annual Scottish Tea, so please keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet for the various foods coming soon to a bulletin board near the kitchen. And don't forget to wear your festive tartans!

***Vestry Meeting*** Sunday, November 17th after the 9:00am service.

***FACC Annual Hunger Luncheon*** Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. Freeport Area Church Cooperative's major community fundraiser, the Hunger Luncheon, will be held on **Friday, November 22, at St. Thomas Catholic Church**. Doors open at 11:30. Lunch is at 12:00. A short program will be from 12:30-1:00. Tickets are \$25. A table of 8 is \$200. The RSVP deadline is Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please get in touch with Fr. Brian.

# Server Schedule

## November 3rd

**Chaliciest:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** Gail Hunt  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

## November 10th

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Martha Furst  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Stan Crowe & Jeff Francis

## November 17th

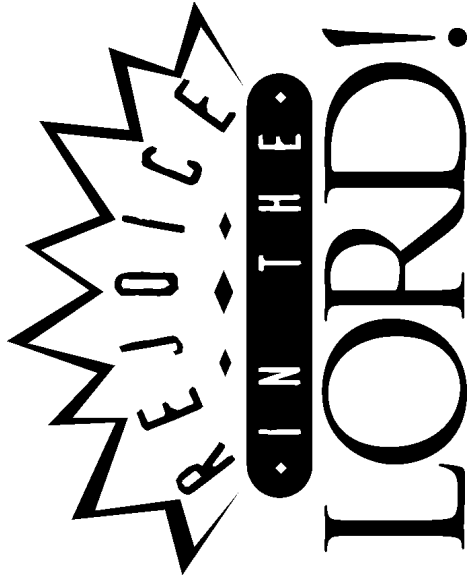
**Chaliciest:**  
**Lector:** John Gush  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

## November 24th

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Claudia Smith  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Stan Crowe & Jeff Francis

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

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November Newsletter