

GRACE NOTES

APRIL 2017



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY

Rector — The Reverend Cathy Carpenter
Rector@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

STAFF

Office Manager — Margaret Houck
Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Sexton — Cathy McClain

WARDENS

Brad Pettit, Seniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
Paul Diller, Juniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

So....how's your Lent going?

Like New Year's resolutions, it is sometimes difficult to maintain a Lenten discipline much beyond...the Second Sunday in Lent? Or maybe Ash Wednesday? If your Lenten observance is going well, that is terrific. But if not, (and it happens!) rather than giving up any effort as futile, I invite you to go ahead and begin again, even if it's almost Palm Sunday. Any efforts we make to grow closer to God are valuable, and when we fall short, but nonetheless turn again toward God, we reinforce the message of Holy Week and Easter that there is absolutely nothing that can stand in the way of God's longing for us. Remember that on Ash Wednesday we were invited to the observance of a *holy* Lent, not necessarily a *successful* Lent! In a sermon used for the last sixteen centuries at Easter throughout Eastern Christendom, St. John Chrysostom writes,

First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Some Lenten meditation booklets remain in the Welcome Area. We celebrate the Holy Eucharist on Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. The prayer book has the Daily Offices. Let us begin again.

Blessings for a holy Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Cathy+

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The vestry met for an off-site Vestry day on March 4th for team building and discussion of how they would function best as parish leaders. At the March 22nd meeting the vestry voted to purchase a drawer to be installed in the new sound rack for storage of the assistive hearing devices under lock and key. A new group, the Central New York Art Guild will begin meeting at Grace in September, and will donate \$50 per monthly meeting. The Art Guild meets the second Thursday of the month from 6-9 PM September through May, except for December. For Easter services vestry members will provide for a properly festive and welcoming coffee hour and be intentional about interacting with visitors and those who do not attend regularly.

THANKS PROPERTY GUYS!!

A big THANK YOU to our hardworking Property committee. Projects recently completed include positioning and securing the new china cabinet in the parlor, repairing the curtain rod mount in the music room, removing the old sound system speakers, sound rack and electronics, retrieving Grace-purchased salt from the previous snow plowing contractor, replacing burnt-out light bulbs, and retrieving Holy Week and Easter items from the attic. Items in process or planning include a portion of a video inventory for property insurance purposes, installing Lucite boxes on thermostats to prevent misuse, investigating possible roof leaks in the office entrance building and the ladies room in the parish center, repairing a bracket on the organ bench, arranging for tree-trimming near the flag pole, and stripping and recoating the flooring in the Welcome Area. When you see these hardworking guys, say thanks!



Sunday, May 7th is Parish Clean-up Day. Following a 9 A.M. Holy Eucharist service we will clean both the grounds and inside the church. We have light jobs for those who are unable to do heavier work. Lunch will be served at Noon.

NEW SOUND SYSTEM

By now most people have enjoyed the benefits of our new state-of-the-art sound system, donated in memory of John and Pat McFall by their children, John S, Laura and Carrie. Additional funding was given in memory of Alan C. Sward and other departed members of Grace Church. The system consists of a sound-processor (computer), one speaker located above and behind the pulpit, adjusted to cover the entire room, new microphones on longer stalks at the pulpit and lectern, wiring for additional mics at the altar rail gate and altar, two body mic packs, two over-the ear mics and two lapel mics. There are four assistive hearing devices for the hearing impaired consisting of an earphone or T-coil loop. Also monitor speakers and volume controls in the old narthex (low-ceiling entryway), Welcome Area, Undercroft and Nursery. The system was designed and installed by DCI Sound of Skaneateles. A memorial plaque will be installed soon, and we plan to dedicate the sound system on May 7th at our 9:00 A.M. service. Mark your calendar to attend and thank these generous donors!

BYLAWS CHANGE

There has been some confusion since the Annual Meeting about the proposed change to the parish bylaws. The change is to alter the number of vestry members from nine to six. The change was proposed due to chronic difficulty in finding a sufficient number of persons willing to be on the vestry.

Now we elect annually: Proposed we elect annually:

3 for 3-year terms 2 for 3-year terms

plus however many are necessary to fill unexpired terms.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION

2018 - Pass resolution to change bylaws for the 2nd time and file with county clerk

Elect 3 for 3-year term – total 9 vestry members

2019 – Elect 2 for 3-year term – total 8 vestry members

2020 – Elect 2 for 3-year term – total 7 vestry members

2021 – Elect 2 for 3-year term – total 6 vestry members

Note that the number of wardens and all other provisions of our current bylaws would remain the same. This method of implementation and the numbers of vestry members (i.e., multiples of three) are governed by diocesan canons and New York religious corporation laws. If desired in future, the number could be increased via the same process.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS

You are invited to be confirmed, to be received into this Communion or to be reaffirm your baptismal vows. You will explore with your mentor/sponsor the aspects of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of the Episcopal Church. Our three-month “Keeping the Promise” confirmation classes will be held each Sunday from 9:10 - 10:15 A.M. at the church. A date for confirmation with the bishop has not been set yet.

A PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

May Almighty God bestow upon Victor LaMar, Connor Hamilton and Cate Griffo the blessing of His mercy and give them an understanding of the wisdom that leads to salvation through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



SAMARITAN MEAL

Our second Samaritan Meal of 2017 will be on Sunday, April 23rd. Since it is near the end of the month when most guests' finances are getting pretty tight, we expect to serve about 300 meals. We will need about 18 volunteers to prepare and serve the meal. We will also be collecting donations to cover the



cost of the meal. Members of the Outreach Committee will be available after both services on April 9th & 16th to accept donations and sign up volunteers. Persons wishing to volunteer can also do so by emailing Bob O'Brien at jrobrien6@gmail.com.



GRACE OUTREACH WINTER FOOD DRIVE WELL RECEIVED

The Outreach Ministry would like to thank all those who donated nonperishable food and other items to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry during our winter food drive. As you know, donations during the period of time after the holidays can sometimes fall short. Grace Church's contributions helped the Food Pantry during this difficult time. Outreach received the following thank you letter from Sally Dayger, volunteer Coordinator at the Baldwinsville Food Pantry:

"To the Congregation of Grace Church,

The volunteers would like to thank the Congregation of Grace Church for all the supplies donated to the pantry. The items make a wonderful addition to each client served by the pantry. Again, thank you for your care of the needy."



Just a reminder-- items for the Food Pantry can be placed in the basket in the welcoming area at any time. Outreach members will deliver them to the pantry. Thanks so much for your continued support.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

In April we say a huge THANK YOU to Doug McCall for pulling together a choir for Holy Week & Easter, and WELCOME to new music director Kristina Vernyi who begins by playing for Palm Sunday and Easter, before taking the helm in Eastertide.



FAT TUESDAY DINNER

This year Parish Life decided to try something different, electing to do a Mardi Gras Jambalaya Dinner instead of the traditional Pancake Supper. While a traditional jambalaya would be spicy and have some type of seafood in it, Jeannie LaMere's version was made with chicken and sausage and mildly seasoned. Hot sauce was available for those who wanted to "spice things up". Cornbread and beverages plus pineapple coconut pecan cake or brownies for dessert completed the meal.

This dinner was open to the general public and we were pleased to have several non-parishioners attend. We served approximately 46 meals and had 4 take outs. Proceeds of \$425 will be donated to the VFW Post 153 Food Pantry. The general consensus concluded that, for a first time event, this was a success. Plans are to offer this again next year.

We extend a huge THANK YOU to all who attended; to Jeannie & Tina Santy for chairing this event and to all the members of Parish Life who helped put it on.

Parish Life wishes to remind you that we appreciate your thoughts on our activities and are always looking for new ideas. Please complete and return the enclosed survey if you have not already done so by April 15th. The survey is also available on our website under "News". Thank you.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS – APRIL 7, MAY 5, JUNE 2

Join us for monthly classic films that raise questions of faith in a complicated world. God at the movies isn't always found in "religious" films. For youth and adults (parents' guide available beforehand). At 6 P.M. we'll have pizza (RSVP for 'za in advance so we order enough!) and at 6:30 P.M. we'll start the film. Bring something to drink-- Popcorn will be provided.

SOUP SUPPERS WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Holy Eucharist followed by soup, bread and a discussion of Spiritual Practices beginning 5:30 P.M. - 7 P.M. through April 5th.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Joan Antos, Dave Atkinson, Elaine Ceresko, Peter Coyne, Dave Ferrari, Eric Ferrari, Sarah Hamilton, Connor Hamilton, Heather Hudson, Maggie Mercer, Kathy Merson, Elaine Renfrew, Dustin Sellers, Stacey Wolf



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, April 9

Services at 8 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Blessing of palms and Matthew's Passion Gospel

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Simple meal at 6 P.M.

Holy Eucharist, foot washing & stripping of the altar at 7 P.M.
Watch before the Blessed Sacrament until Good Friday morning

Good Friday, April 14

Stations of the Cross at NOON

Liturgy for Good Friday

with Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament at 7 P.M.

Great Vigil of Easter, April 15

Kid & Adult-friendly Vigil at 7 P.M.

We will kindle the first light of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 16

Festal Services at 8 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

BRASS POLISHING

Members of Altar Guild will be polishing the church brass on Saturday April 8 at 9 A.M. All are welcome to come join.

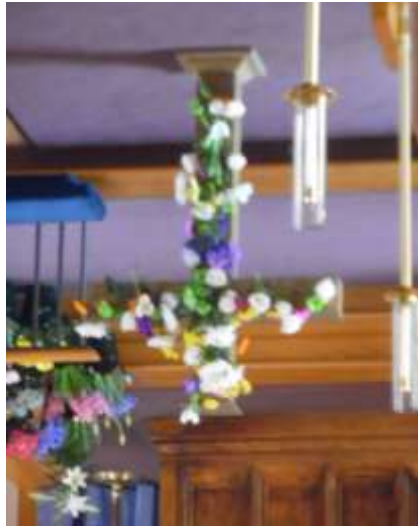
EASTER FLOWERS

Thanksgivings/memorials dedications are due in the office no later than Monday, April 10th to insure all names are listed in our Easter bulletin. Flowers may be taken following the 10:30 A.M. service. Forms are online or in the Welcome Area. The cost is \$10.00.

Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Tel: 315 635 3214

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027



DON'T FORGET TO bring *flowers* for flowering cross on Easter morning and a *bell* to ring during the Hymn of Praise.



**Grace Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 6, 110 Oswego Street
Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006**

**Non-profit org
US postage paid
Baldwinsville, NY
Permit No. 20**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

TO:

HOLY EUCHARIST

Sunday Services 8 & 10:30 A.M.

+ + + + +

Tuesdays 12 NOON

+ + + + +

First Saturday Holy Eucharist 4 P.M.

+ + + + +

Holy Eucharist with Soup Suppers
Wednesdays in Lent 5:30 -7:00 P.M.