

GRACE NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2016



BARB & BRAD OUR 2016
CONVENTION DELEGATES

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY

Rector — The Reverend Cathy Carpenter
Rector@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

STAFF

Office Manager — Margaret Houck
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Director of Music Ministries — Susan Sady
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WARDENS

Susan Allen, Seniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
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Why do you come to church?

That's a serious question these days. Perhaps you were raised in the church, and perhaps not, but the days are long past when that's just what everyone did on Sunday morning (or Saturday evening for Roman Catholics). Nowadays there are all kinds of things from school sports to brunch specials. For many, "regular attendance" at church has come to mean once or twice per month.

So why do *you* come to church? What difference does this community make in your life? What difference does this community make in the lives of those you encounter the rest of the time? What's missing if you don't go? Is there more to being Christian than going to church once a week (or month) and being a nice person?

Due to this year's lectionary readings, you've heard a lot of sermons about the church community as the place where we are formed in Christ, and equipped to go out and do God's work in the world. But what does that look like for you?

We know the vision Jesus had of what that looks like. It's living with God at the very center of our lives. Telling the truth to ourselves about those things and attitudes and situations and relationships that aren't focused on God. And telling that truth on behalf of others. Taking ourselves out of the center of our lives, so that we can live for others, just like Jesus. Caring for others, especially the poor and marginalized.

Have you had an experience of God which is at the core of your faith? For some people it's as dramatic as St. Paul, thrown to the ground and blinded on the road to Damascus. Or is faith, for you, a more subtle thing, like gentle rain or mist waters plants in the spring, almost invisible, but bringing forth new life? Do you *know*, down to your toenails that you are God's beloved child, unique and precious? How is that expressed in your life? How do you communicate that great gift to others, both in the church and elsewhere?

Mo. Cathy+

JENNA'S MISSION TRIP

As you all may know I went on a mission trip to Kenosha, Wisconsin. First I want to thank everyone for donating. Now I will tell you about my trip.

Our mission assignment was to go to Racine Commons Assisted Living every day. There we would help out the seniors who lived there and also the kitchen staff. With the seniors we would play games such as Bingo and Pennies In, did room visits, went for walks and much more. For the kitchen staff we would clean tables, sweep floors and wash the dishes. The directors, Val and Eyrdice, kept us on our toes so we had plenty to do.

The theme of our mission trip was Extraordinary. That meant that we tried to see the ordinary things God made extraordinary. Some things were small like the smiles on the seniors' faces but some were big like them coming out to the lake with us and having a great time. Our scripture to explain



extraordinary was from Acts 4:13 "The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. "

With that on our minds we did devotions daily twice a day. Each day had a theme that correlated with extraordinary. Monday's theme was extraordinary boldness. We started our devotion by making all of our names unique by adding an adjective to the front of our names that started with the same letter as our names. Everyday we would share God sightings, where we saw God at work. Tuesday's theme was extraordinary amazement. Like the day before we shared God sightings. Then we talked about what we have not done well. We did this to show us that we don't have to do everything well when serving Jesus. Wednesday's theme was extraordinary love. This was the day to tell how we had seen or felt Jesus' love. We read Luke 7:36-39. this was about a woman who came to a Pharisees' house to be with Jesus and forgiven of her sins. Thursday's theme was extraordinary go because it was our last day on the job site. We shared about the extraordinary things Jesus did that week. We talked about how we are all God's masterpiece.

Our lodging was amazing just like the rest of the trip. The Redshirts served us all of our meals and sent us with like a school lunch to our job sites. Prior to leaving each day, we would have program or worship. My group and I would lead the songs. After we came back from our job site, we played 9 square. If you remember playing 4 square it is like that with more squares. We did program again where we lead songs then went to bed for the night.

What I got out of my trip was that just because we helped out for the week, did not mean we had to stop there. It has taught me to do what is right. I also learned many lessons from the seniors like "J.O.Y - Jesus, others, yourself", or "If you take 'Christ' out of Christian, you have 'ian' meaning nothing", or lastly "If you take 'Christ' out of Christmas, you have 'mas' that stands for missed a savior".

I would recommend it to someone else because it was so much fun. Anyone would have a great time. It was so organized, but did not keep us chained to a tight schedule. All the food was well prepared and ready for us to eat. We always had free time to relax, play games, or hang out with friends.



Again I want to thank everyone I had great time.

Just as a side note, when you combine the efforts from the groups that went during the 4 weeks in July, over 3,000 items were donated to the Kenosha Food Pantry and the groups contributed over 5,000 volunteer hours.

NEW KEYS!!!

The outside locks on the church at both the parking/office entrance and the Welcome Area glass doors will be changed on Friday September 16. This is the long-delayed implementation of a project begin in 2015 to increase the security and safety of our building. Everyone who needs to have a key should have already received the Safe Church training required of all key holders. You will be able to fill out a key agreement and receive your key before locks are changed during coffee hour 11th, or by coming to the parish office during regular office hours.

MEMORIAL BRICKS surrounding the flag pole will be dedicated following the 9:00 A.M. service on September 11.

STARTUP SUNDAY... BACK TO CHURCH AT 8 AND 10:30 A.M. SEPTEMBER 18TH!

Our academic-year service schedule includes Sundays, Tuesday noon, First Saturdays at 4 P.M.

NEW BEGINNINGS, POTLUCK LUNCH AND FAREWELL - SEPTEMBER 23-25

This weekend our church buildings will be full of 6th-8th grade students for **New Beginnings!** Sunday September 25th at 10:30 A.M. the young participants will do just about everything for the service including the sermon. Following the service is a **potluck lunch** for parish, youth participants and their families. **Bring a dish to share, and come enjoy fellowship with our young friends!** September 28th we will also bid **farewell to Music Director Susan Sady** who has accepted a position *much* closer to home in Utica. Thank you Susan for sharing your gifts with us for so many years, (despite the sometimes terrifying hour-long drive in bad weather!) Coffee hour after the 8 A.M. service and the potluck after the 10:30 service will both feature cake and the opportunity to say goodbye to Susan.

FLU SHOT COMMUNITY CLINIC

Wednesday September 28th, from 11 A.M.-2 P.M. Rite Aid pharmacists will be available to give flu shots here at Grace Church in the accessible Welcome Area. Most insurance covers flu shots, or \$32.99 regular/\$69.99 high-dose for self-pay. (Medicare Part B pays for the high-dose version). The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older. Having the vaccine before the flu season is in full swing gives you a better chance of avoiding the flu, since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against the flu.

NINE-FIFTEEN FORUM

9:15 Sundays – beginning October 4th. Are you someone who has been a Christian for a long time, but sometimes still wonders about the basics? Or are you new to God and the Church who wants to get a better idea of what this Christianity thing is really all about? Come join us Sundays at 9:15 A.M. beginning October 4th for *Transforming Questions*. In this class, we will seek to move into deeper life in Christ by engaging in some of faith's most basic questions: Who is Jesus? Does God answer prayer? How do I read the Bible? Why bother with Church? What do I have to do to be a Christian? Each week we will gather, hear a talk on one of the central questions of the Christian faith, and join in small-group discussion. Through both listening and sharing, we will wrestle with these foundational questions in the context of faith and in the company of fellow seekers. As we do so, we will learn more about ourselves, one another, and the Jesus we are seeking.

GRACE CHURCH COOKIE WALK - DECEMBER 3, 2016

The date **YOU** have been awaiting ...

The Event **THEY** have been anticipating.



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Thanks to a generous memorial donation from the family of Pat and John McFall providing seed money, we are beginning work on obtaining bids for a new sound system for the church. Our current system is at least 35+ years old and many components are obsolete (and cranky!). More news to follow as plans develop and costs are determined.

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER COLLECTED FOR CATO-MERIDIAN SCHOOL BACK- PACK PROGRAM!

These jars of peanut butter, as well as other nutritious snack-type foods, will be given to needy students on Fridays starting in September. This will help tide them over during the weekends. It's hard to study when you're hungry!

Thank you so much, People of Grace, for your wonderful generosity. We have exceeded the goal of 100 jars set by the Outreach Ministry at the start of this project.



SEPTEMBER OUTREACH "PET PROJECT"

Grace Church will bless companion animals and donations for HumaneCNY at the annual Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing, Saturday, October 8 at 4:00 P.M. The brief service will be held in the outdoor chapel (indoors in case of bad weather) and followed by treats for animals and their human companions.

Grace Church's September Outreach is "Pet Project"; a collection of money and materials to be donated to HumaneCNY. Items such as dry or canned dog and cat food, non-clumping kitty litter, treats, toys, clean towels and blankets may be brought to the event or dropped off at the church during September (M-F 9-3) or brought to the event on October 8th. Take-home shopping lists of items needed are available in the Welcome Area.

BIRTHDAY PARTY AT GRACE

On **October 2nd**, the Outreach Ministry will kick off our "Birthday Party in a Bag" project with a Grace Church Birthday Party during coffee hour after both services.

For some families, even a modest birthday celebration for a child or other family member is a luxury they cannot afford. In the past, Grace has donated basic nonperishable foods to Baldwinsville Food Pantry, and this will be continued.



We will collect filled Birthday Bags through October 30th. We hope people will have fun with this project and come up with some creative themes for children or adults! (Themes might include cartoon characters for children or color themes for



WE HAVE A BISHOP-ELECT! THE REV. DEDE DUNCAN-PROBE

Saturday August 6th a Special Convention of the Diocese of Central New York elected the Rev. Dede Duncan-Probe as the 11th Bishop of Central New York on the second ballot. Grace's delegates were Barb Reeves and Brad Pettit, and Mother Cathy. Pending confirmation by a majority of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church and by a majority of the Diocesan Standing Committees in the church, she will be consecrated on December 3, 2016.

Duncan-Probe has served as the rector of St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church in Fairfax Station, Virginia since 2009, guiding the parish through significant growth and revitalization. Previously, she has served Episcopal parishes in Stoneham, Massachusetts, McLean, Virginia, and Vienna, Virginia. Before her ordination to the priesthood in 2004, Duncan-Probe served as a church youth director and as an educator and co-founded an engineering consulting firm with her husband. In addition to a number of leadership positions in her current home diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, she also serves on the Board of Regents of The Goodwin House, a nonprofit care organization for aging adults, and is an adjunct professor at The Virginia Theological Seminary.

Duncan-Probe holds a B.S. in education from Stephen F. Austin State University, an M.A. in Psychology from Pepperdine University, a Master of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. In Theology from The Foundation House/ Oxford University.

She and her husband, Chris Probe, have three children, Chasen, Ryan and Grace.



-Biographical material from BishopCNY.org website

FROM THE PAST

From *Baldwinsville's Own Cook Book* by Women's Auxiliary – Grace Episcopal Church, published 1950's

Pecan Cookies *Mrs. Robert H. Olson*

1 cup butter or margarine
2 cups flour
4 Tbsp sugar
2 tsp vanilla
2 cups finely-chopped pecans

Cream butter and sugar, add vanilla, flour and pecans. Roll into small balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheet, bake 35-45 minutes at 300 deg. F. Roll in powdered sugar when cool enough to handle, and when cool, roll in sugar again.

COMING THIS FALL... EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

What is EfM? Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program for adult Christian formation through theological education and reflection. For over forty years, EfM has provided a four-year curriculum that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity who are prepared to listen for and respond to God's call.

How does EfM work? Participants sign up for EfM one year at a time. Six to twelve participants meet weekly over the course of 36 weeks for 2 ½ -3 hours with trained mentor(s). Weekly reading assignments give perspective on the entire sweep of Christian tradition. There are no tests or grading, and the group mentor(s) function as facilitators of the group's work, rather than as teachers. The focus of EfM is life as ministry, and the development of discipline in theological reflection to sharpen skills and effectiveness in a variety of ministries.

What does it cost? Because the Diocese of Central New York is a "sponsoring agency" the fee is \$350 (regularly \$460) for each program year. Fees pay for all required books and study guide, seminar supplies, and mentor honorarium. Fees must be paid entirely at the time of enrollment. The participant provides their own Bible, preferably an annotated New Revised Standard version such as The Oxford Annotated NRSV or the Harper-Collins Study Bible NRSV.

When will it meet? Scheduling depends on the members of the seminar group. Vacation times, conditions for weather-related cancellations, and other scheduling issues will also be negotiated.

Are there scholarships? Partial subsidies may be available. Speak with the rector.

Can my Lutheran (Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Other, None) denomination friends sign up too? Absolutely! Although EfM is from the School of Theology at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, an Episcopal institution, seminar groups are often enriched by the interchange between those of differing religious backgrounds.

Why do EfM? "Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education that supports their faith and helps them to connect that faith to their daily lives. The EfM program provides people with an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service and carry out their ministries". -- *from the EfM information brochure*

Got questions about EfM? Speak with co-mentors Carla Wiemers or Mother Cathy Carpenter.

For more information...

Brochures are available, or go online to efm.sewanee.edu to read more and see sample lessons.

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Dottie & AJ



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

TO:

HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICES

Sundays 9 A.M. through 9/11
8 & 10:30 A.M. start 9-18

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Tuesdays 12 NOON

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First Saturdays 4 P.M.