

# GRACE NOTES

DECEMBER 2017



## GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### CLERGY

Rector — The Reverend Cathy Carpenter  
[Rector@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](mailto:Rector@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org)

### STAFF

Office Manager — Margaret Houck  
[Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](mailto:Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org)

Music Director — Kristina Vernyi  
[music@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](mailto:music@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org)

Sexton — Cathy McClain

### WARDENS

Brad Pettit, [Seniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](mailto:Seniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org)

Paul Diller, [Juniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](mailto:Juniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org)

## *Time is running out*

When I was a small child, my family would stop at a little deli/convenience store on the way home from church, and one of us kids would be sent inside to pick up the Sunday New York Times. During Advent, as the weeks counted down toward Christmas, we'd carol, "Christmas is coming; the Times is getting fat" because the paper was so stuffed with ad inserts that we could barely carry it. Every week there were more ads, each getting more and more hysterical about how TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!

Even now, I see social media posts from friends and friends-of-friends who are already worried that time is running out to complete shopping and decorating and writing Christmas cards and it is ALREADY after Thanksgiving.

But in the church, Christmas comes only after Advent. And Advent is about waiting. About keeping awake. About not missing the signs of God at work in the world or in ourselves. It's about repenting of our resistance to God's work in us, inspiring our hopes and dreams of a world reconciled to God where the hungry are fed, the mournful, comforted, and everything and everyone is perfectly reconciled to God. It's about seeing the dreams and promises and hopes enacted in history—in history writ large, and in our own personal history. The history of "In the Beginning" and at the End, where the promises of God were and are enacted, and where we are oh-so-gradually transformed, as we work and wait on the Lord, and he waits on us, that the same Light kindled in us may shine forth in our lives to the glory of God.

Time is indeed running out, so I encourage you to take time this Advent to keep awake, to note the signs, to dream God's dream of a reconciled world.

Cathy +

Some Advent resources:

Forward Movement Day by Day

Participate in a global Anglican Advent meditation by signing up at [www.adventword.org](http://www.adventword.org) or visit on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter.

Use an Advent calendar like the free ones in the Welcome Area.



## OUTREACH HOLIDAY PROJECT

Outreach Collection of Family Board Games for the  
Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau

Last year the Christmas Bureau was so pleased with the board  
games given by Grace parishioners that they have



asked us to repeat the collection for this holiday season. A board which  
displays pictures and a list of popular family games can be found in the  
Welcome Area. This display is meant to give you suggestions, but any  
family board games would be welcome.

Let's not forget those less fortunate during this Christmas season. Please bring your  
gifts to church by December 10, since the Christmas Bureau volunteers need some time  
to sort and deliver them. Thanks you!

## COOKIE WALK 2017

Another glorious day and another church family event concluded.

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true;  
Who phoned and shopped and planned and boxes,  
For the Cookie Walk they loved and knew.

Some did the baking and some did the trays;  
Some did the measures and some did the weighs;

Some did the set-up and some took down,  
And some spread the messages all around;

Some were the callers and some were the cooks,  
And some were the managers of the books;

Some joined the Bake Night and some the Café,  
And some were musicians who "graced" our day.

And there's not any reason, no! not the least,  
Why I shouldn't...

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Barb Reeves





## GREENING OF THE SANCTUARY

Join the Altar Guild to decorate the church  
following the 10:30 A.M. service  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

~ 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE — SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

~ 7:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist with Bells and Choir

~ 11:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist with Music

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE — MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

~ 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord

### LESSONS & CAROLS - Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

~ 9:00 A.M. with Holy Eucharist



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** may be given in celebration, thanksgiving for blessings, or in loving memory for a loved one. Please have your requests in the office no later than Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Poinsettias can be returned to you or given to shut-ins. Flower request forms can be found on our website or in the Welcome Area. Plants are \$8.50.

### SENIOR HARVEST DINNER

Grace's annual Senior Harvest Dinner hosted by Parish Life was held on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Forty seniors were in attendance to partake in a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Prepared by Stacey Wolf and Carla Smith with help from other Parish Life Members, all were in agreement that everything was DELICIOUS.

The Enzian Barvarian Dancers, who include our own Carolyn Smith, entertained the diners with their authentic dances, instrumental pieces and humor.

This event is very popular with our senior parishioners and Parish Life welcomes the opportunity to honor them.

### SAVE THE DATES:

Parish Life's annual Cook Off will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2018. The theme for this much anticipated event will be **International Foods**. Celebrate your heritage or choose a dish from somewhere you'd like to visit. All are welcome to participate as chefs or tasters.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area beginning December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES**

Do you live differently than you might because of Grace Church? Would you like others to do the same? Then, please, remember to return your pledge card to the office or place it in the offering plate at one of the Sunday services. Thank you

## **VESTRY MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2018**

**The work of the vestry has two faces:** leadership and management. As a vestry member, together with the rector and wardens, you will be expected to manage and lead.

**Management** includes such tasks as: budgeting, establishing and enforcing policies and procedures, establishing action plans, maintaining property.

**Leadership** includes such tasks as articulating and communicating the vision for the future of the parish, generating enthusiasm and “buy-in” from the congregation, and as needed, taking personal responsibility for ensuring ad hoc or permanent committees carry out their assigned work.

### **Vestry members should be able to make the following commitments:**

- Vestry meetings (1x per month, plus occasional additional meetings as needed);
- Committee work (usu. 1x per month);
- Vestry retreat (annual);
- Regular attendance at worship services (rotating services occasionally);
- Congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, adult education programs, etc.;
- Diocesan meetings, as necessary;
- Annual meeting.
- Exercise confidentiality and practice healthy, honest, open communication patterns in the parish.

### **Qualifications:**

- Eighteen years of age or older;
- Baptized; (wardens must be confirmed)
- Active member of the parish who is regular in worship attendance and contribution of time, talent and treasure.

## ADVENT EVENT

Parish life is holding Advent activities after each service December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is the first Sunday in Advent. Christmas cards will be available for you to write notes to our parish family members who are unable to join us regularly, as well as notes to military members.



Stations will also be set up for you to make live advent wreaths. A \$5 donation for each wreath would be helpful to defray the cost of materials.

We hope that you can join us for this joyful and meaningful activity.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Susan Allen, Pat Apicella, Paul Cooney, Pam Griffo, Rose Mercer, Ross & Sharon Ney, Stu Reeves, Abrianna Renfrew, Dan Wiemers, Mason & Scott Warner, Kelsey Allen

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Stu & Barb Reeves, Dan & Carla Wiemers



## SAVE THE DATES:

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - All Annual Reports due in the office

Sunday, January 21<sup>th</sup> - Annual Meeting following a 9 A.M. Holy Eucharist service

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> -

Mardi Gras Jambalaya Dinner (Shrove Tuesday)



*Proposed modification to the By-Laws of Grace Episcopal Church, Baldwinsville, New York to reduce the number of Vestry Members from 9 to 6.*

*By NYS law, this resolution to amend the by-laws requires passage twice by a parish meeting before it goes into effect. The following resolution was passed by the Vestry at its regular meeting on December 28, 2016, and by the Parish Annual Meeting on January 22, 2016. If passed again at the January 2018 meeting, it will be effective for the January 2019 election.*

## WHEREAS

for a number of years there has been chronic difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of qualified and able vestry candidates, and

Whereas the available volunteer resources of the parish might be better distributed across the various ministries of the parish, rather than concentrated in the vestry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Article IV Section 3 of the By-Laws of Grace Episcopal Church be amended to read:

At each annual Meeting there shall be elected for their regular terms of two (2) and three (3) years respectively, one (1) Warden and **two (2)** Vestry members. In the event that any Warden or Vestry member is elected to serve an un-expired term, that term shall expire at the same date as that of the person originally elected to such office, and whom he or she succeeded.

And

Article V Section 1 be amended to read:

The Vestry shall be composed of the Rector, two (2) Wardens and **six (6)** Vestry members.

**Further discussion of concerns expressed at the January 2017 Annual Meeting:**

***We have vestry representatives on each of the parish ministries and there won't be enough vestry members to do that.***

*In practice, some vestry members already serve with multiple ministries. It seems that reducing the number of people on the vestry frees individuals to serve in other needed capacities. Right-sizing our vestry to the size, capacity, wiliness and ability to serve of our congregation as it exists now suggests greater effectiveness may be obtained with a smaller vestry.*

***What about possible tied votes with a vestry made up of an even number?***

*In practice, we are at risk of this situation frequently, as not every vestry member is able to attend every meeting. In the case of a tie with all present, the rector may vote. Robert's Rules of Order Revised 11<sup>th</sup> ed. specifies that the chair, if a member of the voting body, has exactly the same rights and privileges as all other members, including voting (not just to break a tie). According to the canons of the church, our bylaws, and NYS Law, the vestry is made up of rector, wardens and vestry members.*

***Won't it be even harder to obtain a quorum with fewer people?***

*In fact, we have been unable to transact business at a few scheduled vestry meetings due to unexpected absences of vestry members. With fewer people, rescheduling such meetings would be somewhat easier.*

Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Tel: 315 635 3214

110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

9 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

**CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE**

7 & 11 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

9 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



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

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*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST*

TO:



**Annual Cookie Walk**  
**December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 A.M.**

HOLY EUCHARIST  
SUNDAY SERVICES 8 & 10:30 A.M.  
+ + + + +  
TUESDAYS 12 NOON  
+ + + + +  
FIRST SATURDAY HOLY EUCHARIST 4 P.M.