

GRACE CHURCH IS GOING GREEN!

Your vestry is working to reduce our budget deficit and their hard work has identified some ways we can go green and save money at the same time. Let us know what you think of these changes, and any other ideas you may have.

- ◆ Beginning with the October issue, *Grace Notes* will be published in electronic form and emailed to everyone for whom we have an email address. Our shut-ins and those at a distance who don't have email will receive hard copies via first-class mail. Others may pick up *Grace Notes* in the Welcome Area or office. Additional copies will be available for newcomers and visitors. This will reduce paper and printing costs, and allow us to eliminate the bulk mail permit as well as a significant amount of postage. Remember also that *Grace Notes* is always available on our website.
- ◆ Beginning in mid-September we will experiment with a reduced bulletin for most Sundays. Our new sound system makes it easy to hear readers, so only the citation for readings and page number for the collect will be provided. This will reduce the paper and printing costs by half or more. As a ministry of hospitality, full large-format bulletins will still be used for occasions when the service is complicated and/or a large number of visitors are expected (Christmas, Easter, baptisms, funerals, etc.).
- ◆ We have already increased our communications by sending *This Week at Grace* announcements via Mail Chimp email every Friday afternoon. This has the added benefit of ensuring those who are not present still receive our community announcements and weekly liturgical schedule, and slightly reduces the number of copies we need to print.
- ◆ We are looking into providing a means for people to give to Grace electronically, both for regular contributions and one-time gifts via our website. One study indicates 42% of churches have "e-giving" available, and in those churches, 59% of folks 66 years and older participate. Many churches experience a 10-30% increase in giving when they move to such a system, and of those aged 20-35, a whopping 75% prefer electronic giving. This program would be entirely voluntary, and all potential vendors meet strict e-commerce/banking standards for information security. Reusable cards indicating electronic giving can be made available to place in the offering plate for those who wish to use them. If you would be interested in electronic giving, please speak with Mother Cathy.
- ◆ Our church management software has the capacity to allow members to access their own profile information and their current giving record. We are looking into enabling that feature for those individuals who would like to see their giving record online whenever they prefer. Paper statements would be produced for all other givers and available for pick-up in the Welcome Area 3 times per year as is current practice. Would you be interested in managing your own church profile and seeing your giving record whenever you like? Please contact the office.
- ◆ Recycling of refundable bottles and cans will become a year-round option. Youth may request to manage the recycling for a period of time as a method to raise funds for a mission or youth event trip, and the parish will manage and receive the funds raised the rest of the time.
- ◆ Four generous individuals have already made additional gifts to reduce our deficit budget. **THANK YOU!!!** Please consider adding to your pledge, or making an additional or "challenge" gift.

AS CHRISTIANS, WHAT IS OUR CALLING?

It's to follow Jesus—to follow in the Way that he taught his disciples. And that Way is transformation from the world's perspective of competitive me-first scarcity, to other-centered, open-handed gratitude for the abundance God gives. As theologian Marcus Borg points out, "Jesus incarnates the way. Incarnation means embodiment. Jesus is what the way embodied in a human life looks like."

In our world today, it is far too easy to absorb the competitive, me-first perspective that sees our status, money and possessions as what gives us worth, and the need to jealously guard these things from all threats. But in Jesus we see the generous, open handed gratitude for the abundance of God and the model of sharing the Good News that we are beloved not because of status or wealth or correct belief or behavior, but simply because we are God's. Our response to that love is what calls us to be transformed to better reflect the glory of God. Everything else we do in worship, family, work, leisure, serving those in need, and so forth is in response to that overwhelming love. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry put it, "Love is the answer".

So where are *you* being called today?

Cathy+

VESTRY NOTES - JULY

- * Discussed actions being taken as a result of the Vestry's July 11 budget meeting.
- * Voted to reduce the position of Music Director to Organist as of September.
- * Revisited the proposed water softener purchase and voted to confirm the original purchase decision.
- * Agreed to seek additional others who not on the Vestry to serve on a stewardship committee.
- * At least one vestry member and Mother Cathy will attend a Stewardship round table offered by the diocese.
- * Will obtain bids for snow plowing for the 2018-2019 season to consider at the next meeting.
- * Was informed that no applications for this year's Lewis scholarship have been received.

AUGUST VESTRY POINTS

- * The resignation from Vestry of Dottie Carrie was accepted with regret.
- * The sidewalk in front of the church will be repaired in September.
- * A new water softener is to be installed.
- * Snowplowing bids were discussed.

SUB SUNDAY

September 30th

Sub choices are turkey or ham with lettuce, tomato and onion

A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome area.

The cost is \$6 for a 6-inch sub.



HOMECOMING TO GRACE will be held Sunday, September 9th, with one service at 9 a.m. in the Memorial Garden, weather permitting. The service will include the brick dedication with a brunch following the service. Parishioners are asked to bring a dish to pass; sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Area or call Margaret in the office at 315-635-3214. Please join us even if you are unable to bring anything.

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, September 30, 2018 - Sub Sunday

Saturday, October 13, 2018 - Trivia Night

Sunday, October 28, 2018 - Wine Tasting

Sunday, November 11, 2018 - Senior Harvest Dinner

Saturday, December 1, 2018 - Cookie Walk

SAMARITAN MEAL

Grace's final Samaritan Meal for the year will be on Sunday, September 30th.

Due to the past generosity of our parishioners, we have enough money to cover the cost of buying the food for the meal. Starting on September 9th we will have a sign up sheet in the welcoming area for the 25 volunteers needed to



prepare and serve the meal at the Samaritan Center in Syracuse from 12:30-3:00 p.m.. You can also sign up by contacting **Bob O'Brien** at jrobrien6@gmail.com. Please consider joining us.

WONDER ABOUT OTHER FAITHS?

Consider participating in Inter Faith Works Dinner Dialogues, Thursday September 27th 6-8:30 p.m. Join a diverse group of 8-12 guests gathered together for a friendly, facilitated conversation about faith and spirituality. Dialogues are held at homes across Central New York. Through facilitated conversation, **dialogue participants gain an understanding of other people's beliefs and often find more similarities** than differences. Interfaith dialogue helps us understand our own faith and the faith of other people. It helps to create a deep awareness of the connectedness of all faiths and an appreciation for their distinctiveness. Registration forms and information are available in the Welcome Area. Sign up by September 14th. For more information, contact Inter Faith Works' Daryl Files at (315) 449-3552, ext. 208.

OUTREACH “PET PROJECT” TO BENEFIT HUMANE CNY ANIMAL SHELTER

HumaneCNY is an animal shelter located in Liverpool, which seeks to better our community through kindness to animals.

Their mission: To provide our community with an animal shelter that shows compassion and respect for life by following a no-kill philosophy and by striving to provide the cats and dogs entrusted to their care with permanent, loving homes. They have been the advocate and caretaker of homeless cats and dogs since 1966.

HumaneCNY is now in the process of demolishing and renovating their aging building on Taft Road. This year during the month of September, Outreach is again asking parishioners to bring in any of the following:

- Bleach
- Hand soap
- Laundry detergent
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Rabbit food
- Cat food
- Dog food
- Cat litter
- Pet toys
- Used but clean blankets and towels



Because of the huge cost of the renovation project, we also ask you to consider a tax-deductible donation as an alternative to bringing in items. Anyone interested in doing this can send a donation to:

HumaneCNY
4915 West Taft Road
Liverpool, NY 13088

PET PROJECT will conclude with the Blessing of Animals service at 4 p.m. October 7th followed by a reception for two and four - legged guests.

REST ETERNAL grant to Ken Divers and Rob VanMarter O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

THANK YOU GARDENERS

Thank you to all the garden elves weeding and work hard on our gardens.



MUSIC NOTES

Due to our budget deficit, at the July meeting the vestry voted to reduce the position of Music Director to Organist, beginning in September. With this budget-driven change from having a Music Director to **having an Organist, and the recent scheduling difficulties due to choir members' availability, the choir** has determined that it no longer can serve on most Sundays. We still hope to have a choir for such holidays as Christmas and Easter, and to make use of our talented instrumentalists and soloists on some Sundays. Music planning will be accomplished by a committee who will meet with Mother Cathy 3 or 4 times per year to select and schedule hymns and service music. We hope that additional people might join us for the special holiday choir.

STARTUP SUNDAY

Back to church at 8 and 10:30 a.m. September 16th. Our academic-year service schedule includes Sundays 8 & 10:30 a.m., Tuesday noon, First Saturdays at 4 p.m.

GIVING SUMMARY

As of 8/29, year to date pledged: \$112,622. Received to date: \$72,036. Non pledge gifts \$3525. Loose offering \$1143.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Sunday Service September 9th - 9 a.m.

Sundays starting September 16th - 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays - 12 Noon

First Saturday Holy Eucharist - 4 p.m.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY

Rector — The Reverend Cathy Carpenter
Rector@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

STAFF

Office Manager — Margaret Houck
Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Organist — Kristina Vernyi
Music@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Sexton — Cathy McClain

WARDENS

Paul Diller, Seniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
Peter Coyne, Juniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org



Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Tel: 315 635 3214

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TO: