

GRACE NOTES

NOVEMBER 2018



Cookie Walk December 1st

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE

Grace has two accounts for bottle returns. The Baldwinsville Bottle & Can Return in the Tops Plaza; and McBride's Bottle & Cans in the plaza behind the church. Please ask for donations to go on the Grace Episcopal account. Don't forget to get a receipts and turn it in to the office. A check will be sent to the church for all returns about once a month.

SAVE THE DATES FOR PARISH LIFE EVENTS

November 11—Senior Harvest Dinner

November 18 —Volunteer Recognition Sunday

November 27 —Men's Baking Night

January 19—Annual Cook Off - "Things with Rice"

March 5—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



BRASS POLISHING

Please join Altar Guild in polishing the brass at the altar at 9 a.m. on November 3rd.



ADVENT CANDLES

Advent Candles will be available to buy on November 25th, and on December 2nd. Candles will be \$5 per set of 4 and are 10" dripleless candles.

DON'T FORGET

Turn clock back 1 hour on Saturday, November 3rd.



transforming generosity with Grace

Dear friends of Grace,

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry often describes us as “The Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.” What does that mean for us at Grace? What is God calling us to do as followers of Jesus?

As Episcopalians, we love our worship. Our liturgies inspire us. The Eucharist is at the center of our lives. We believe the bible is the word of God and we are people of the Word.

As part of the Jesus movement, we follow the One who loves us so much that he gave his life so that we might understand God’s never-ending love for all of creation.

And here’s the hard part: As followers of Jesus, we are called to give all of ourselves to God’s work in the world. In the sixth chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus, after teaching us how to pray, talks to us about money, our needs and our hope. He reminds us that we cannot have two masters. We cannot love God and money.

Jesus then says: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

He finishes by calling each of us with these words, “But seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

How would our church —how would we — be transformed if each of us remembered these words of Jesus? We are indeed called to set new priorities.

Establishing new priorities for ourselves and for our church means transforming how we think about generosity. That transformation will call upon us to look for generosity in every aspect of our work and in every aspect of our lives. Remember the tenth chapter of Mark’s Gospel: “Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’”

Jesus calls us to take the long view. Again he challenges us to give all of ourselves to God’s righteousness and trust in God’s care. What a challenge! What transformation!

I hope you’ll join me as we work together to transform generosity in our church, our community and our lives-with Grace.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Cathy Carpenter, Rector



OCTOBER VESTRY POINTS

- Reviewed financials and continued discussions of ways to potentially reduce our deficit.
- Bottle and Can Recycling accounts have been set up for Grace Church. Specify that donations are to go to Grace Episcopal Church and get a receipt to turn in to the office (or collection plate). Your donation will be forwarded to Grace from:

Baldwinsville Bottle and Can Return, Tops Plaza, 2265 Downer St, Baldwinsville.

McBride's Bottle and Can Return, (Plaza behind church) 80 Smokey Hollow Rd.

- Finance (Rosemary Coyne) submitted results from research she did on our Copier Maintenance Contract. Vestry approved cancelling our current contract and going with a new vendor in 2019 for a cost savings of \$648.00 annually.
- Reviewed documents and the progress of our Stewardship Ministry. Grace Sunday and Volunteer Recognition to be held November 18th.
- Discussed the 2019 Budget – Finance to present preliminary budget to Vestry at the November meeting using the pledged amount from 2018 as a starting base. Adjustments will be ongoing as pledges come in for 2019.
- Vestry approved renewal of our Seneca Savings CD, and earning with the addition of \$500 from the Seneca Savings account.
- It was suggested that we have another Ministry Fair in January. It has been quite some time since we did this and all the ministries could use additional members.

OUTREACH REMINDER

Don't forget to bring in your food item for our Thanksgiving Baskets project by Monday, November 12th. Please mark items you bring on the sign-up sheets in the Welcome Area.



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS—NOVEMBER 4

We will name those who have died at our All Saints services. Please submit names to the office by phone, email or a written note by Friday, November 2nd.

THANKSGIVING EVE HOLY EUCHARIST

Just us on November 21st at 7 p.m. for a service of Holy Eucharist.



THE 13TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Getting closer....

This is one of our biggest fundraisers for the parish, and we need LOTS of cookies and volunteers to make it successful

We ask that each parish family bake at least 6 dozen of their favorite festive holiday goodies. For those who can, please bake more!



Cookies can be dropped off on Thursday, November 29, between 5:30 and 8 p.m., OR Friday, November 30, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. There will be a drop off sheet in the kitchen – be sure to add your name and cookies to the sheet.

If you do not bake, please consider a financial donation to purchase supplies, or the wonderful gift of time to help with preparations.

Sign-up sheets for set-up and for the big Cookie Walk Day will be in the Welcome Area. Many hands make light(er) work! Please become part of our festive, “fun-raising” day!

A couple of additional opportunities to help:

Decorate the Cookies Day - Sunday, November 18, starting at 9 a.m.

We will be decorating cut-out sugar cookies. Come when you want and stay as long as you wish! Bring pre-baked cut-outs in the following shapes (as we will have stations set up to decorate these shapes):

Christmas trees, stars, snowflakes, snowmen, mittens, ornaments, or stockings.

And don't worry if you don't think you know what to do - we will teach you!

Please note that other shapes are welcome for the Cookie Walk if they are decorated at home by the baker. We are just limiting the shapes for the decorating event.

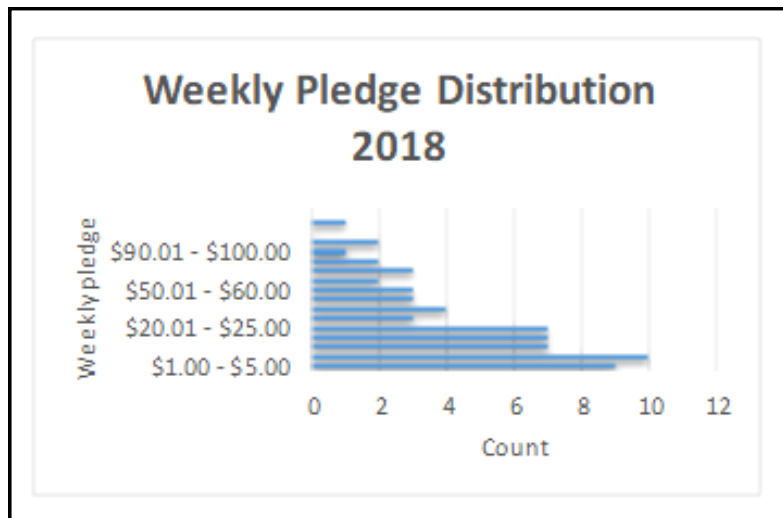
If you can't be with us to decorate, we will gladly accept your baked cookies and make them look awesome! Donations of sprinkles and embellishments would also be welcome.

Jeannie LaMere is coordinating this activity. Please contact her if you have any questions: jeannielamere@gmail.com or 315-635-6398.

Men's Baking Night – Tuesday, November 27, starting at 6 p.m.

What goodies will the men conjure up this year? Join them for a night of camaraderie! Casey Hamilton will be leading this crew.

For more information on the Cookie Walk, contact Roxanne Parmele roxparmele@twcny.rr.com or 315-415-7930) or Kelly Hamilton (khamiltoncoach@gmail.com).



GARDEN OF GRACE

Head Start children enjoyed the harvest of mini pumpkins from our Garden. The children planted seeds in several garden plots, assisted by Joy Pople, Ruth Frey, and Elaine Ceresko, and enjoyed watching the plants grow. The frequent rains this summer helped ensure good growth, and the children were excited to find seeds inside the pumpkins, which they cleaned and stored for planting next year.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Representatives from nine churches that are part of our local chapter of CWU met to decide the distribution of donations received at this year's Lenten luncheons, which totaled \$553.00, supplemented by contributions by women from the First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, and the Jacksonville Faith Community. Recipients included Baldwinsville Meals on Wheels, \$200; Baldwinsville Community Food Pantry, \$200; P.E.A.C.E., Inc., \$100; and Baldwinsville Cares, \$100. In addition, \$100 was given to First United Methodist Church as the host site and \$100 to PACB-TV that provides a volunteer to videotape the services and broadcast them on our local public-access TV. Thank you to everyone from Grace Church who contributed their food and time to the meal we served at the 2018 Lenten service in.

VESTRY MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2019

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.

NINE-FIFTEEN FORUM

9:15 a.m. Sundays and Tuesdays at 1 p.m. following the noon Holy Eucharist. Join us for *Ways to Pray*, a series on methods of prayer including rosary, Anglican rosary, the Jesus prayer, praying with art, *lectio divina* and more.

OUTREACH NEWS

Once again Grace Church demonstrated generosity and compassion in donating items needed by Humane CNY animal shelter. The items were delivered to the temporary headquarters in East Syracuse. Work on the new building is underway, and when it is finished will provide better health, safety and comfort to homeless animals. The volunteers at the shelter were very appreciative of our support. Thanks to all who contributed. The project culminated in a Blessing of the Animals service, which was held on Sunday, October 7th.

Our Thanksgiving basket project for needy Head Start families will conclude on November 12th. Many people have already signed up on the sheets in the Welcome Area to bring in the requested food items. Please don't forget to put a check mark next to your name when you bring in your item. Frozen items should be placed in the freezers in the undercroft or ask any Outreach member to help you. Gift cards should be left in the church office. Thanks for your generosity!

Our Christmas project will start November 18th. We are once again asking for *family board games* to be donated to Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau. These went over really well last year and they have asked us to repeat the collection. Please bring the games in by December 10th for delivery to the Christmas Bureau. Thank you in advance.



SENIOR HARVEST DINNER

Parish Life Ministry are working together to present a delicious dinner; as well as the *Recognition of our Senior Veterans*, here at Grace Episcopal Church. We have some special things planned.

You don't want to miss this special event!

Please plan on attending, November 11th at 11:45 a.m.

If you have any questions, please call Margaret in the office at 315 635-3214.



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