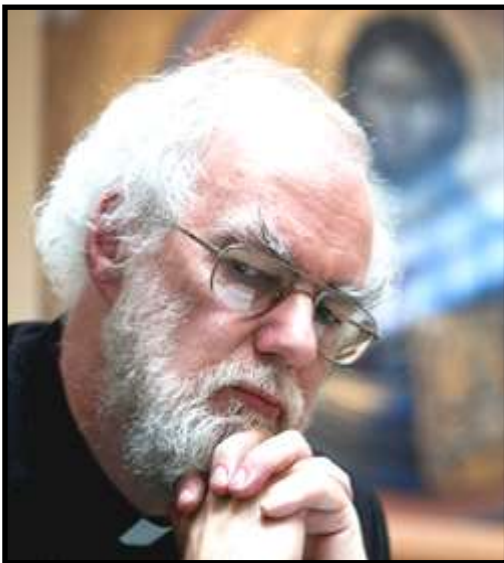




MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

Christianity at its beginning, was profoundly counter-cultural. Throughout history, when the Church has been at its best, it has served as conscience, and sometimes opponent, to the powers of the world. Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, on the topic of Christian decision-making wrote,



How do Christians make moral decisions? In the same way as other people. That is to say, they do not automatically have more information about moral truth in the abstract than anyone else. What is different is the relations in which they are involved, relations that shape a particular kind of reaction to their environment and each other.

...what will guide me [in moral decision-making] is the need to show in my choices the character of the God who called me and the character of the community I belong to...

I am to act in such a way that my action becomes something given into the life of the community and in such a way that what results is glory – the radiating, the visibility, of God's beauty in the world.

As the community around us begins to ease out of our two-month coronavirus-induced pause, the weather becomes summer-like, and most of us are simply tired of remaining at home. There's an urge to just go along with everyone else, and resume all of our former activities—gathering together, singing and passing the Peace in church and going out to brunch with our friends (remember brunch?).

As the Church, we are to keep Jesus and our neighbor front and center in our decision-making. Concern for the most vulnerable is in our Judeo-Christian DNA. Our Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe has convened the district deans to advise her as we work through the slow steps toward gathering anew. At this point, no changes will be made to the previous directive suspending in-person gatherings until we have an opportunity to see the results of the state of New York's easing of restrictions. Toward the end of June we will review the situation, and plan for what may come next.



MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER— CONT.

In this process, all of our decision-making must be a balance between the needs and desires of parishes and people, and the Christian standpoint that Archbishop Williams describes above, that is, we must always reflect the character of the God who calls us and the character of the community we belong to, in order that God's beauty in the world is revealed. It's a tall order in a world of unknowns, and we must step forward with great care.

Bishop DeDe is meeting weekly with the clergy of the diocese, and every-other week with the district deans, and providing weekly videos for everyone on Facebook. I am sharing the videos to Grace's Facebook page as they appear.

Please keep our parish, our diocese, the clergy and people and all who are suffering in these circumstances in your prayers.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cathy" followed by a plus sign (+).

1. Rowan Williams, *Making Moral Decisions, The Cambridge Companion to Christian Ethics*, Robin Gill ed., Cambridge University Press, 2001.

MAY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Grace Church was successful in its application for assistance through the CARES Act and its Payroll Protection Program and has received the \$20,500 requested as part of the federal economic stimulus bill.
- A separate checking account has been set up to process the PPP funds as necessary.
- The Church Pension Fund also granted us a two-month waiver toward Mo. Cathy's pension which will not have to be paid back.
- The Diocesan Foundation granted Grace Church \$3,000 towards the construction of a sidewalk across the front of the church property by the village.
- The Outreach Committee was able to cover the cost of the May 31st Samaritan Meal even though they were not able to serve it to those in need. Kudos to this group of caring individuals for making sure this happened.

INDEPENDENT - CLEAN UP

Did you miss our spring parish clean-up? Do you enjoy yard work? While we can't gather, we can still tidy up the property so Grace Church looks good. Follow the link to a spreadsheet our Properties Chair Allen Wolf created to allow people to sign up for tasks and schedule work with proper physical distancing. Please observe the following precautions:



Be specific with your spreadsheet entries, e.g. "weeding and trimming the area by the BBQ pit" rather than "clearing up the backyard." Only schedule work with people living in the same household. (Gathering in any number is still not permitted according to our bishop's directive). Bring your own tools, or arrange a no-touch tool pickup from someone else.

Keep masks and hand sanitizer handy. Be sure to wipe down any surfaces touched with disinfecting wipes (water faucet, borrowed tools, etc).

Traffic in and out of the building for any reason is discouraged.

If you must come into the building (e.g. for a repair), please schedule your work, wear a mask, use handwashing and sanitizer appropriately, and disinfect any surfaces you may have touched. (Don't forget the light switches, door handles and bathroom fixtures).

Those without internet access can email or call Allen, the parish office or Mother Cathy to have their entries added to the spreadsheet.

Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5qoj55>

SAMARITAN MEAL

Grace's second Samaritan Meal of the year is scheduled for May 31st. We would normally now be asking for volunteers to serve the meal and money to pay for it, but we are in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic so few things are normal. The May 31st meal will be prepared and served as a take-out meal by 3 members of the Samaritan Center staff. No Grace volunteers needed. Thanks to your previous generosity there was \$449 in the Samaritan account, so the Outreach Committee decided to offer the Samaritan Center \$400, the average cost of an end-of-the-month meal, to pay for the May 31st meal. The offer was gratefully accepted.

Since I can't ask you for your time or your money, I want to take this opportunity to thank every one of you who have ever volunteered to help prepare and serve one of our Samaritan Meals or contributed to the cost of the food for a job well done that was much appreciated by the people we served. *Bob O'Brien*

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ZOOM WORSHIP

Sundays - 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Tuesdays - 12:00 Noon



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