



MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

“Why did the chicken cross the road?”

“To get to the other side”

Yes, but *why* did the chicken want to be on the other side?

This sounds like the kind of discussion one might have with a child. The kind of discussion that parents, grandparents, aunt and uncles endure endlessly when kids are a certain age (and breathe a sigh of relief when the kids grow out of questioning quite so persistently!)

But here's a harder question: “Why did the Samaritan cross the road?”

One might answer, “To get to the injured man whom no one else was helping”.

And the little-kid question, “But WHY?” suddenly seems far more profound.

Why *do* some people go significantly out of their way to help those who probably wouldn't help them, were their positions reversed? Why do some people help others far beyond what we expect or even think wise or prudent?

There was a lawyer who asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked what the lawyer read in the law (the Torah), and the lawyer replied with the summary of the law, but then asked “And who is my neighbor?”

And Jesus tells of a person from the most different and hated religion and culture, who stops and crosses the road to help an injured person. A neighbor.

Neighborliness is easy when the neighbor is our friend or someone like us. Neighborliness is easy when we see others in difficulties as people like ourselves.



MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER— CONT.

Neighborliness is much harder when they are not like us; when we might see them as a threat, or when we can blame them for their own circumstances and wash our hands of them.

But “those people” are exactly who Jesus says are our neighbors. The people for whom we are to go out of our way and cross the road.

Whenever we are present at a baptism, or renew our baptismal promises, each one of us vows to “*seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself*”, and “*respect the dignity of every human being*”.

Grace Church has a long and robust history of outreach to our neighbors. What new roads do you think we might cross in this new year? And why?



DECEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Our participation in the Diocesan Payroll Program has been formalized and it will begin with the first pay period in early January.
- Vestry has confirmed that we have two people that have agreed to be Vestry members and one Junior Warden, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting.
- Following how we've had to adjust to conducting meetings this year, Grace will hold its first ever Zoom Annual Meeting on January 24th. Stay tuned on how this will work for us. And yes, we can actually vote using Zoom.
- With the sketchy internet service we've had most recently and with how that service has been so badly needed in 2020 to conduct church services and meetings, Vestry has asked that we investigate updating our service at Grace.
- After 20 years of service, our elevator was “diagnosed” with the need of a replacement part. Allen Wolf will contact the service company to see that repairs are made.
- Vestry is currently reviewing the draft of the 2021 budget and will be looking to make suggestions towards approving in early January for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

- Pledge envelopes are available but the cost of sending these out is cost prohibitive. Therefore, some Vestry members have volunteered to do social distanced deliveries. If you don't receive yours within the next week, contact the church office.

BIOGRAPHIES

Nancy Fredette (Vestry) I am a life-long Episcopalian. I graduated from high school in Avon, N.Y. and am a graduate of SUNY Oswego. I am married and have two married adult children and two grandchildren. I am retired, having directed a nursery school and been a public school educator for 31 years. I joined Grace Church in 1970. I have served on previous vestries and also as Vestry clerk. I am currently overseeing the weekly contributions given by parishioners. I would be happy to commit to a Vestry term.

Barb Reeves (Junior Warden) I have been a member of Grace Episcopal Church ever since I arrived in Baldwinsville in 1966. Over the years I have been a member of Altar Guild, Lay readers, choir, hand bells, Parish council, Vestry, palm-cross construction, Counters, and Chair of Cookie Walk. My husband Stu and I have two daughters, Pam and Meredith, as well as two granddaughters, Jenna and Cate Griffo.

Ashley McNamara (Vestry) I grew up in Binghamton, NY. After Graduate School I settled down in Syracuse with my now husband Ian. I have two boys, Cael (5 yrs) and Rylan (2.5). I love to craft, listen to audiobooks, and hike. I have been part of the Episcopal community my whole life and looking forward to joining the vestry.

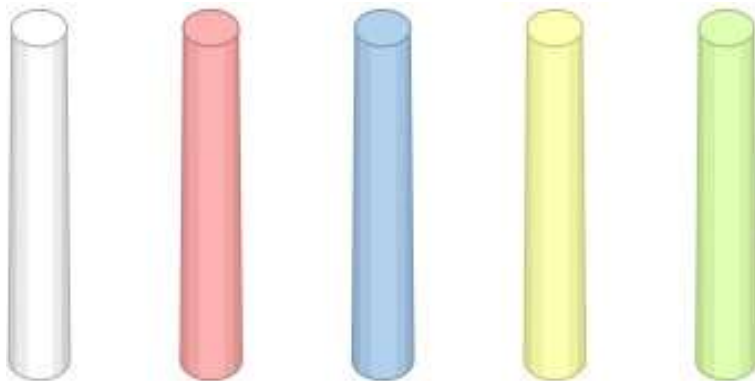
ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting will be online on January 24, 2021, in between the services. If you can't attend on video you can dial in on phone and attend that way.

The deadline for the written committee chair member reports is January 18, 2021, but earlier would be appreciated.

EPIPHANY IN-HOME CHALK

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen up-
on you.*



The feast of the Epiphany on January 6th ends the 12 days of Christmas and ushers in a new liturgical season. While Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, and Christmastide is a season of celebration, Epiphanytide is a turning outward to the world. In Western church practice, it celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men from the east to the cradle of the Christ child in Bethlehem as recounted in St. Matthew's Gospel. The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "appearing". It makes sense that Epiphany comes right after Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus; Epiphany is about the spread of the good news to the wider world.

One tradition related to Epiphany is blessing of chalk for blessing homes at Epiphany. The chalk is used by the faithful and used to mark a blessing over or on the doors of the home. The usual practice is to use the blessed chalk to write:

20+C+M+B+21

above the doorways: 2021 is for the year and C, M, B are for the 3 Magi – traditionally named Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar, (and also for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ Bless this House" in Latin).

As or after you write the inscription, either of the following prayers may be used:

Option 1

Leader The Lord be with you.

Response And also with you.

Leader Arise, shine, for your light has come and the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Response And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Leader Let us pray.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives they touch.

May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen

Option 2

Leader: May God the Father, who by Baptism adopts us as his children, grant us grace.

May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill us with love.

May God the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church one family, keep us in peace.

Response: Amen!

The chalked inscription remains above the doorway until Pentecost.

FEBRUARY SAMARITAN MEAL

Due to the continuing pandemic, Outreach feels that volunteering as a church is still impossible. The committee has chosen to honor our commitment by donating the cost of the meal. Your contributions are essential to this effort. You may drop off or mail your gift marked "Samaritan Meal" or donate online via our website. To donate securely online go to our website, GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org and click the green GIVE button. You will be redirected to our online giving partner, Tithely. Be sure to select the "Fund" item "Samaritan Meal" so your gift is credited properly. Thank you!



GIVE

CHRISTMAS

This Christmas Eve service was not like any other service from the past years, but there was still a lot to do in Church for preparing. We would like to say thank you for everyone that helped out this year, especially Jeff Wise for the music and Jonathan Howell for being the soloist singing *O Holy Night*. We also thank Allen, Stacy and Emma Wolf for being the tech people for the recorded service and everyone on Altar Guild that came to set the church up for services.



ENVELOPES

The envelopes that you may have requested, by marking your pledge card are here and are going out for delivery within the next few days.

If you did not request envelopes on the pledge card or forgot to, contact the office and a message will be relayed. If you haven't received the envelopes by January 6 or 7th please contact the office, either by phone or email.



THANK YOU!

To the Grace Church parish,

Thank you ever so much for the kind cards, etc. That kept me informed of the activities at Grace.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. That helps me think positive during the many treatments.

Merry Christmas- Our prayers are with all of you.

Proudly,

John W. Rogers

CHRISTMAS BUREAU

A big thank you for everyone that donated to the December Outreach Project. There were 23 board games that were donated and dropped off at the church. The Christmas Bureau was very happy and grateful to receive them.



DID YOU KNOW?

If you missed our Christmas Eve online Holy Eucharist with spiritual communion, you may not know that Grace Church has a YouTube channel! Every week the hymns and service music for the 11:00 AM services are played from there. If you'd like to view the Christmas Eve service, or hear a particular favorite hymn again, head on over to: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6VSJIBjfCnRHRn9RD3aDOA>

You can click the VIDEOS item, then select what you wish to view. While you are there, consider subscribing by clicking the word SUBSCRIBE. (You will need a Gmail account to do so). If we achieve 100 subscriptions, we will be able to use an alias (a MUCH better and easier-to-type name than UC6VSJIBjfCnRHRn9RD3aDOA).



WINTER FOOD DRIVE

The Outreach Committee is once again doing a winter food drive to be delivered to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. It seems that donations drop off right after Christmas and the pantry has asked us to fill the gap. All non-perishable food items are welcome. However, the Baldwinsville Food Pantry has expressed a special need for the following items: Jellies and jam (not homemade), peanut butter, hamburger/tuna noodle helper, pasta, hearty soups, canned veggies, canned stew, canned tuna, box of instant hot chocolate, cereal, mac & cheese, paper products.

This is an on going collection and items can be brought to the office during regular office hours, but we would like to make a delivery to them at the beginning of March.

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ZOOM WORSHIP

Sunday Rite 1 8:00 A.M.
Sunday Rite 2 11:00 A.M.
Tuesdays at 12:00 NOON



Grace Episcopal Church
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