



MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

Each congregation of the Episcopal Church prepares an annual Parochial Report as required by Canon I.6.1. The principle purpose of the Parochial Report is “*to secure an accurate view of the state of the Episcopal Church,*” and is the joint responsibility of clergy and vestry. It is not merely a report for assessment (“tax”) purposes, rather, it is a way for the church, diocese, and congregation to enable effective mission and effective evaluation of our efforts.

Obviously the metrics used on the Parochial Report were never designed for a year like 2020. For instance, how does one count “Average Sunday Attendance” when we are deliberately not gathering? How do we account for significant differences between congregations and state pandemic stay-home orders? Or between the technical capabilities of different parishes and their members?

A special 2020 Parochial Report was developed, which included specific questions about the impact of the pandemic on worship, formation for children, youth and adults; the impact on the financial condition of the congregation, and whether the parish intends to continue livestreaming (i.e., Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube etc.) once restrictions are lifted. For the most part, Grace’s vestry felt the impact was, “somewhat significant” in terms of attendance and on our financial circumstances.

This year the report also contained questions about the congregation’s, vestry’s and clergy’s commitment to racial justice and reconciliation, and three narrative questions to be answered by the vestry:

1. *What were the primary opportunities, innovations and challenges in conducting worship during the pandemic? What did you learn?*
2. *What are the primary opportunities and challenges your church is facing as it plans for the*

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future?

3. *What three things have changed the most in how the church conducts its ministry?*

At a meeting for the purpose, the vestry had a very thoughtful discussion of the questions. Our commitment as a congregation, and as a vestry to working toward racial justice and reconciliation was determined to be “neutral”. The narrative questions were more open-ended. Of course discussion of challenges received a lot of attention, particularly the diocesan limits on gathering, which some felt to be too rigorous and imposed. There were also some significant opportunities and innovations noted, particularly the opportunity for both elders and parents of young children to “do church” without having to leave home. Also noted was the interesting dynamic in which a Zoom meeting from home can sometimes feel more intimate and comfortable than the same meeting in-person, facilitating conversation with those one isn’t as familiar with. Some responses were mixed, e.g., *We’d rather be in church AND we need to continue doing live streaming.* Particularly changed during the pandemic, and greatly missed, has been the lack of social opportunities, and especially funerals and receptions.

Although we must still be careful for the sake of our neighbors, as restrictions gradually ease, and more people are vaccinated and feel comfortable assembling, we can consider similar questions to these. What have we learned? Where do you see opportunities? How has your ministry changed?

MARCH VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- It was noted that the increased water/sewer bill for February was the result of an overlooked toilet running for quite a while.
- Vestry approved the Memorial Committee's recommendation to fund the purchase from memorial funds of a Shur MVI Audio Interface and cable from DCI sound to provide better sound for live streaming.
- Our Treasurer’s job description will be completed next month.

- Grace Vestry Guidepost received a recommendation to appoint a timekeeper, so to keep discussions in reasonable timeframes. Agendas will be collaborative preparations between wardens and rector.
- Emma Wolf will maintain the church lawns for \$50/mow, plus gas reimbursement.
- Allen Wolf is willing to help with the Chicken BBQ, but is unable to chair it. A CBBQ meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 14 @ 7:00 PM. All are invited.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY



This year, Holy Week and Easter Sunday looked a lot different, but at the same time felt like normal. This time last year, we did not have in-person church because of the start of the pandemic. This year, we did in-person services with masks, social distancing and an outdoor service. The outcomes at all the services were great. Photo credits: New fire - Terri Tarranto, the outdoor service - Sue Allen. Mother



er Cathy also took a picture of the congregation of the first outdoor service using the portable altar. She has wanted to do an outdoor service since she arrived at Grace, but weather never cooperated. Even though the traditional decoration of the cross did not happen, and there was no congregational singing (due to pandemic precautions), there is always something special about going to church on a holiday. It made everything seem (almost) normal again; the best it can get.



PARISH LIFE NEWS



We are so happy to have been able to have our first in-person meeting and to start making plans for Grace. First, please mark your calendars for May 2, 2021 for our annual clean-up day. This will be an outside clean-up with the usual cleaning out of the gardens, lawns, trees, shrubs, etc. Please bring your own tools and masks. Parish Life is still working on ways to provide a safe lunch for volunteers.

The next item we want to address is our annual recognition of any graduating seniors in June. If you have a senior graduating, whether it be a son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter, please let us know. You

can call the church office at 315-635-3214 or Jeannie LaMere at 315-635-6398.



Looking even farther on the calendar is our annual Commemorative Brick Dedication in September. You may purchase a brick and have it engraved with a name or message. It will then be dedicated on September 12 and placed in the brick bed surrounding our flags. We have been able to secure a local engraver to continue this tradi-

tion. Because of the lead time needed for this process, a date for receiving brick orders will be June 15th. The cost is \$50/brick. If you have any questions, you may call the church office at 315-635-3214. You may also download the brick order form from Grace Church website.



CHICKEN BBQ

While things continue to improve, there is still a large amount of uncertainty the next couple months. The chicken BBQ is an important fundraising and social event of the parish, however there is significant work that will need to be done adjusting to new norms and we have a much smaller volunteer group of parishioners to help out. **At this**



time, I am willing to help and work with someone that would like to take the lead, but I will be stepping back

from chairing and coordinating all of the different moving parts for the BBQ. If you are interested in chairing please let me know. We will be having a brainstorming, planning meeting on April 14th, 7pm @ the church. Anyone interested in helping with planning is welcomed.

Allen

EASTER BASKET FOR HEAD START



Thank you to all that contributed to the Easter Baskets for Head Start. The baskets were filled with candy, bubbles and some extra Easter-y things. Linda Parker, from Head Start, was in awe with how cute and adorable the baskets were, that she was sure that the kids would love them. The baskets were given to the kids on March 26, the Friday before their spring break.

HAVE YOU SEEN US ON YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK?

Grace Church is now livestreaming to Facebook for our 11:00 AM alternate-week in-person Sunday services (and some holidays too!). You can also see and hear every Sunday's music on our YouTube channel. Can't find our Facebook Page or YouTube



Channel? Click the social media icons in the header and footer on our website GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org.

LITURGY ASSISTANCE NEEDED



Are you interested in helping with services in church? One household (i.e., those who live in the same home) is needed to read lessons, psalm and prayers of the people, and to make the responses at each service. Please contact Mother Cathy if you are interested in helping out.



OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE

Non-perishable food items please. This is an ongoing collection. Items can be brought in during in-person services or dropped off during regular office hours. Thank you



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



A requiem Holy Eucharist for Dorothy Divers who died December 6 is scheduled for Saturday April 10 at 11:00 AM at Grace Church, followed by burial of ashes in Grace Memorial Garden.

A funeral service for Fern Butler who died March 18 is scheduled for May 15th at 10:30 am at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 Genesee St. Camillus. Burial will be held in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse.



Services for Connie Taft who died March 29 are scheduled for Saturday April 17 1:00 PM at Grace Church followed by burial of ashes in Grace Memorial Garden.

We have received word that former Grace member Joan Coulter died March 11 at 93 years old. She is survived by husband Robert, her son Thomas (Patricia) Coulter, her daughters Nancy Barber and Barbara Puchalski, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. A memorial was held March 22 at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Boynton Beach, Florida.

A BIG THANK YOU!



Thank you to those who continue to support the church by mailing in your offerings. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please

consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give."

It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.

GIVE

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WORSHIP

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



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