

# GRACE NOTES—January 2022

## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

Many thanks to all who helped prepare and decorate the church for Christmas! It looked lovely for our candlelight Christmas Eve service and for Lessons and Carols the following Sunday. Thanks also to those who have been running the livestream to Facebook—we have some very faithful online attendees. Despite the disappointing return of some pandemic precautions, it really looked and felt like Christmas! Be sure to check out all the photos in this issue!

Photos: Allen Wolf



## PANDEMIC PRECAUTIONS



Please note that as of this printing, regular Sunday services are still in-person, and live-streaming to Facebook at the 11 AM service. To ensure safety and proper air exchange in the church, some windows and doors will remain ajar when the church is occupied. All persons, except vaccinated readers/preachers/soloists must wear a mask at all times while in the building, and physical distancing, hand washing/sanitizing is strongly recommended. Please note that the church will be cool and there will be a slight draft. Please plan to dress accordingly.

## DECEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Please Help Grace by running for Vestry
- If you haven't sent in your pledge yet please do so.
- Annual Meeting will be Jan 23, 2022
- Bishop will be here Sun Jan 9. for confirmation. 1 service that Sunday at 11AM
- New roof has been completed on the connector between the church and education wing.

## VESTRY MEMBERS STILL NEEDED

Vestry Member Qualifications Are you called to lead? 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. 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 ed. 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 and talent and treasure.

Please prayerfully consider your calling to this important role.

*Opposite page clockwise from top left: <sup>1</sup> Christmas congregants with candles, overlooked by holiday choir members from the gallery. <sup>2</sup> The spectacular Welcome Area Christmas Tree donated by Stuart and Susan Allen. <sup>3</sup> Congregants with candles sing Silent Night.*

*Photos: Susan Allen and Allen Wolf*

# CHRISTMAS AT GRACE





*Above: Christmas Eve candlelight service.*

*Right: Rose window and pew candles.*

*Below: Christmas Eve hospitality*

*Photos: Allen Wolf and Susan Allen*



## THANK YOU!



Thank you to those who continue to support the church by bringing or 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. You may also contribute in this way for flowers, or to special efforts like Samaritan Center Meals.

**GIVE**

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT



A collection of wooden evergreen trees made by the late Paul Cooney were given to the parish by Paul's family. The larger trees will be used for future Cookie Walk decorations (a favorite event of Paul's) and the smaller were available for parish members to take home as a remembrance of Paul.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Our December Outreach collection of family board games was greatly appreciated by the Christmas Bureau and the families who received gifts for Christmas. Thank you!



## A NOTE FROM THE VESTRY

If you have not yet mailed or delivered a pledge card for 2022, please do so as soon as possible. Pledges can also be made on our website. Thanks for your support of the mission and ministry of Grace Church!



## SYRACUSE HOME WORSHIP



Next Syracuse Home worship is Evening Prayer at 3 pm on January 16. Readers, singers, musicians, and people to help residents with the bulletin are all needed. Please speak to Mother Cathy if interested in helping out.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Can you help with services in church? Volunteers are needed to read the first lesson and psalm. Contact the parish office. Also urgently needed are volunteers to run our livestream at the 11:00 service and at baptisms and funerals. No particular technical skill is needed, although familiarity with a touch-screen is



helpful. Training and resources will be provided. Contact Mother Cathy or Ash McNamara

## SPEAK FAITH



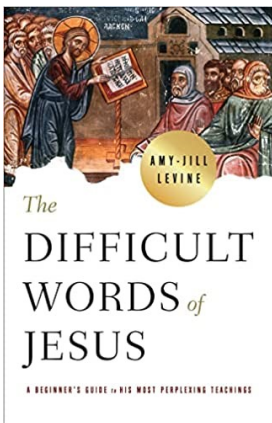
Speak Faith Open House: Come & See! Speak Faith is a free yearlong online program for Central New York Episcopalians to explore our faith and get courageous sharing it. The 2022 cohort begins January 29th. Interested in learning more about 2022's "Speak Faith" formation opportunity? Join us for a quick preview! Tuesday, January 11th 6:30-7:30 p.m. or Thursday, January 13th, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Please REGISTER on the diocesan website for the session of your choice and you'll receive a Zoom link by email.

## BISHOP'S VISIT & CONFIRMATION



The Right Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe will visit Grace Church and confirm Jenna Reese and Emma Wolf on January 9th. at 11:00 AM. Unfortunately, due to high hospitalization rates in our county, this event will be a hybrid one. The confirmands, their mentors and catechist, families and necessary liturgical personnel will be on-site. All others may attend via Facebook live stream. The live stream will be accessible from Grace Church's Facebook page, and does not require a Facebook login. Simply go to our parish website and click the Facebook icon in the upper right corner of the screen or click [here](#). The confirmands, their mentors, Tina Santy and Sue Purdy, and catechist Carolyn Smith have met faithfully through the fall in preparation for this sacrament of adult commitment in faith. Both young women were baptized here at Grace and it is wonderful that they can take this next step here as well! Thanks to their mentors, catechist, families and parish for their support!

## TUESDAY FORUM — EPIPHANY



The Tuesday Forum resumes January 11th at 1:00 PM. We will be reading Prof. Amy-Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, available from bookstores, on Amazon, as a Kindle e-book. We have ordered some copies which you may have for \$15. In the book Prof. Levine discusses how Jesus's difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation. Please email the parish office or speak with Mother Cathy if you are interested.

## HAVE YOU SEEN US ON YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK?

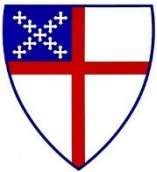


Grace Church is now livestreaming to Facebook for our 11:00 AM Sunday services. We have several very regular attendees, and others find it convenient during travel or bad weather. Can't find our Facebook Page or YouTube Channel? Click the social media icons in the header and footer on our website [GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](http://GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org).

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Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

**WORSHIP**

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



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
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