

# GRACE NOTES — January 2024

## THE REFLECTING POOL

For most of my working life the first two weeks of the new year and much of the holiday season prior to it were spent planning for and participating in the “training trip”. That is where I would travel south (usually to south Florida but sometimes to a place somewhat more exotic) with the LeMoyne swimming team for an intense training experience in a facility dedicated to the sport. We would find a collection of teams from across the college spectrum; big schools like Notre Dame and Texas A&M, and smaller ones like St. Lawrence and Alfred. Everyone got along “swimmingly” (sorry about that) and it was helpful for some of the more modestly talented swimmers to chat with athletes that were world class. And, lest anyone think that the trip was a “vacation”, traveling to a place 1,500 or more miles away bearing the responsibility for an entourage of 45 18-22 year olds was not at all relaxing! There were trips to the local emergency room, occasional bad weather, dented rental vehicles, and sporadic logistical problems. Still, we did it year after year. I suppose you could say that, in addition to the physical benefit, it built character. That’s what I told myself.

This new year is different, to say the least! I am entering the fifth month and first full calendar year as your rector. There is no persistent chlorine odor here and no worry over the expense of \$400 swimsuits, but I can think of a few similarities. As a coach I would rely on a handful of reliable souls to get things done; usually the team captains. When I started at Grace someone told me that the parish may be smaller than at times in the past, but that everyone here was capable of doing a lot of good work in short order when the need arises. I have found that to be resoundingly true, and could not be happier with the support I have so far received. Also, a team performs best when it keeps track of its mission statement and remains focused on a collective goal. Everyone has to “buy in”. Here at Grace our general mission statement is to faithfully serve as the Body of Christ on Earth and I have seen no deviance from that path. There has been energy, the acceptance of new and/or updated ideas, and a refreshing intellectual curiosity about our faith and how best to express it in this world. I cannot say precisely when or how any new or expanded opportunities for ministry will present themselves, but I am confident that we will be ready when the time comes. We have also said farewell to some beloved and longtime members of the church. At the same time, we have heard some young voices (and received terrific crayon drawings) in the pews. Optimism abounds! I am writing this prior to Christmas Eve, and by the time you read this it will be 2024. Let me be the first to say

“Happy New Year”!

Peace, Fr. Joe



## ATTENTION PLEASE.....

- ⇒ If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Thank you!
- ⇒ Grace Church Annual Reports are due via email to the office by January 10, 2024.
- ⇒ Grace Notes submissions, are due by the middle of the month. Event wrap up, acknowledgments and pictures with descriptions are always appreciated.
- ⇒ Information that should be in This Week at Grace is due by Tuesday of each week.
- ⇒ If your committee or group has a change in schedule, please let the office know so it can be updated on the church calendar.  
[office@graceepiscopalbadwinsville.org](mailto:office@graceepiscopalbadwinsville.org)

## DECEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Budget for 2024 was approved by the vestry.
- Annual Meeting scheduled for Jan 21 after the worship service.
- Fr Joe plans to take the B'ville Polar Plunge sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday Jan 27th. Funds raised will be donated to a local charity.



## ANNUAL MEETING

**\*The Annual Meeting will be held on January 21st  
after the Sunday Service \***

The candidates for vestry are:

### Jr. Warden

#### **Barb Reeves:**

She arrived in B'ville in 1966 and is still here! Her husband Stu, daughters Pamela and Meredith have been associated with Grace Church all that time. She has had plenty of time and opportunity to participate in so many of Grace's activities over the years: choir, bells, Altar Guild, lector, Cookie Walks, vestry, Threads of Love, the tapestry. As a retired teacher from Cato-Meridian CSD, Barb has had ample time to pursue these activities, and she wishes to continue to promote the growth and faith of Grace and its family.

### Vestry Members

#### **Laura Moreau:**

Laura has been attending Grace Episcopal church for 21 years. She was baptized and confirmed here. She has served on the vestry in the past and is currently a member of the Altar Guild and Outreach Committee, among others. On some Sundays you see Laura serving as our Eucharistic Minister. She looks forward to helping the church grow.

#### **Stuart Allen:**

Stuart 'Skeet' Allen has been attending Grace Church since 1973, along with his wife and family. Both his children were baptized here and his daughter was married in this church. Over the years he has participated in the Men's Work Night, and assisted with cooking at the annual chicken barbecue. His family has also supplied the Christmas tree in the foyer for several years. Skeet is retired from teaching and coaching in the Cato-Meridian School District.

## IT HAPPENED AT GRACE



Blankets made by Threads of Love for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau



The Outreach Ministry thanks our generous parishioners who donated 33 new family games to the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau.



Looks like some fun will be had!

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received,  
and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

- St. Therese de Lisieux

## Visit us online

We are livestreaming our 9AM service to Facebook. You can also see pictures and watch the Christmas Eve service on Facebook [here!](#) Check out our website @ [GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org](http://GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org) for lots of other information.

## WEATHER POLICY

Closures due to weather will be posted on the website. Please let the office know if you are cancelling an event. Thanks.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

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## COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

### ALLEN'S IN OFFICE HOURS

TUES 4 PM - 5:00 PM-ISH WED 5 PM - 6:00PM-ISH

OFFICE HOURS MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Please note....we have moved....well actually the mailbox has moved. We will no longer have a PO Box. We will be using our street address for all mailings from here on out. If you notice a PO box listed on something, please let me know and I'll work on having it changed. Thanks!



Grace Episcopal Church  
110 Oswego Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027 - 0006

# COOKIE SALE AND BAND CONCERT



# Men Baking!!!



# Prepping the cookies.



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## WORSHIP

Sunday 9:00 A.M. Alternating Holy Eucharist Rite 1 & 2

