

GRACE NOTES — February 2024

THE REFLECTION POOL

As I write this it is two days after the Baldwinsville "Big Chill". Your collective generosity yielded almost \$1200 for the Baldwinsville Community Food Pantry, and the part of the day devoted to swimming (briefly!) in the Seneca River was for all intents and purposes a wonderful outpouring of support for the charities serving the less fortunate in our area. Freely given. No strings attached. The day was festive indeed, but generally speaking this time of year is almost a sensory desert compared to the frantic pace of, and preparation for, the holidays. It is a quieter, and potentially more reflective time. Soon we will observe Ash Wednesday and begin the season of Lent. The BCP describes Lent as marked "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word". There's a lot in there, and I have a few thoughts on the matter.

In the Harry Potter series there was an elf named Dobby who, when he realized that some of his actions may have placed Harry in danger, sought repentance by beating himself over the head with a heavy book and ironing his own hands, among other things. You had to give him credit for sincerity, but it didn't do much to help Harry. If giving up something you normally enjoy or using the Lenten season to modify or eliminate a harmful behavior makes the love of God more present to you, then so be it! Remember, however, that we Christians must "not look gloomy, like the hypocrites". Our sacrifices must not consume our whole being.

In the Christian journey we need to remember that it IS a journey and repentance means acknowledging our mistakes and learning from them. It requires patience, endurance, and the sincere belief that in Christ you are indeed worthy. When and if you fall off the horse, get back on. New opportunities await! Also, this relatively quiet interlude in the year makes me think of Mary. Her trust in God was such that she became the perfect instrument of His will in the birth of Jesus. In our quiet time, Lent in particular, perhaps we can pray that the will of God can be expressed in us to a greater extent than we thought possible. We may have undiscovered abilities! One priest described repentance as "not ceaseless scourging but rather the fresh giving of the self". Finally, on Ash Wednesday, when we hear that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, remember that our dust has been redeemed by Christ. Yes we return to dust, but we are not to dwell on it. Instead, we reach out in service to others. Father Bill Mobley, in a collection titled "Welcome to Paradise", stated that "true happiness is found in the exact degree we reflect the will of God" and that it is perfectly fine to have a Lent "less focused on fasting and more focused on shaking loose the love" of God. There are many ways to observe Lent and they are all valid to the extent that they strengthen our faith.

Peace, Fr. Joe



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday is a Christian holiday that falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

It is the last day before the start of the Lenten season, a period that lasts for 40 days. The day is traditionally celebrated by making and eating pancakes as a way to use up foods such as eggs and milk before the start of Lent.

Grace Episcopal Church

FEBRUARY 13TH 5-6:30 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NO CHARGE, BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

110 OSWEGO ST. BALDWINVILLE, NY 13027



WWW.GRACEVILLE.ORG

JANUARY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- New members to Vestry acknowledged: Barb Reeves, Jr. Warden; vestry members Skeet Allen and Laura Moreau.
- Barb Reeves appointed vestry note taker.
- Stacey Wolf appointed clerk. Tina Santy appointed treasurer.
- Mark Baker will do 2022 audit. Maybe 2023.
- Authorized account signers at Seneca Savings: Brad Pettit, Pam Griffo, and Nancy Fredette.
- Vestry calendar: 4th Thursday of every month, except Nov. 21 and Dec 19th.
- Allen Wolf's CC position salary authorized.
- Kiwanis Club's check of \$75.00 for Grace Church's Turkey Trot Run fundraising deposited into the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

OUTREACH WINTER FOOD DRIVE

Baldwinsville Food Pantry

Through January and February we will collect non-perishable food for the B'ville Food Pantry. Food donations tend to drop off after the holidays, so this will help boost their supply and help our neighbors.

Requested Foods Include:

Soups

Jams/Jelly

Peanut Butter

Canned Vegetables

Canned Meats



RESOURCES FOR LENT



Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Reflections from "Living the Way of Love" by Mary Bea Sullivan (Church Publishing, 2019). Used with permission.		Feb 14 Pray Take 20 minutes in contemplative prayer today. Matt. 4:18-22	15 Turn Today, intentionally listen devoutly to another person. Mk. 4:23	16 Go Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness? Matt. 5:4	17 Worship How does community help or hinder your growing in Christ? Jn. 1:12-13	18 1st Sunday of Lent
19 Bless Who has taught you to live a Jesus-filled life? Who have you taught? 2 Cor. 4:16	20 Rest How do you incorporate rest into your life? Jer. 6:16	21 Pray Go for a walk today and pray with your feet, each step with intention. Is. 2:3a	22 Rule of Life How do others experience the love of Christ you bring? Gal. 5:22-23	23 Go Where are you being encouraged to "show up"? Matt. 25:44-45	24 Worship What is most meaningful to you in worship? BCP, pg. 28!	25 2nd Sunday of Lent
26 Bless Notice the pattern of your breathing. Pray for awareness of blessings. Gen. 2:7	27 Learn What passage of scripture is important to you? Why? Is. 40:8	28 Pray Listen to the Daily Office today at: missionsclare.com . Ps. 55:17	29 Turn How did you turn back toward God's love when you made a big mistake? Lk. 15:18	Mar 1 Go Where can you seek and serve Christ in someone unlike you? Jer. 30:22, 31:4-5	2 Worship In your prayers today, what new words or thoughts touch you? Phil. 4:6	3 3rd Sunday of Lent
4 Bless Intentionally smile at least ten times today. Phil. 4:4	5 Rest How might you connect with others in the spirit of renewal? 1 Kings 19:11-12	6 Rule of Life How can you build pauses into the day to reflect on the work of the Spirit? Jn. 15:5	7 Turn What relationships do you need to mend? Is. 55:6-8	8 Go Create a prayer representing how you seek to serve God and follow Jesus. Matt. 5:15	9 Worship What seminal moments have informed a need to return to Christ? Ps. 51:10	10 4th Sunday of Lent
11 Bless What challenges are you facing today? Job 11:18	12 Learn How is the Jesus who walked the earth beckoning you to meet him? Mk. 10:46-52	13 Pray Try praying with Anglican prayer beads. Lk. 18:1	14 Turn Where do you find joy and passion? Lk. 24:32	15 Go Where might God be asking you to take your great love into the world? Is. 48:6b	16 Worship How do you want to prepare people to remember you? 2 Cor. 1:3-4	17 5th Sunday of Lent
18 Bless When you reflect on financial giving, are your palms open? Matt. 12:43-44	19 Learn Who might you have a conversation with to learn about God? Ps. 119:105	20 Pray What are you thankful for? 1 Chron. 29:15	21 Way of Love Where do you see the seven practices of the Way of Love in this story? Lk. 5:19	22 Rest How do your creative outlets impact on taking rest? Gen. 1:1-24	23 Learn Practice lectio divina with this scripture: Lk. 15:17-24	24 Palm Sunday
25 Rest What can you say "no" to so you can say "yes" to prayer, rest, and joy? Lev. 23:3	26 Learn Slowly read this passage aloud. How does this passage speak to the world today? Matt. 4:8-22	27 Rule of Life Who can support you in living a Jesus-centered life? 2 Cor. 3:6	28 Turn How might you share what brings you great joy with others? Rom. 12:6-8	29 Rest How can you incorporate rest from technology today? Matt. 11:28	30 Rule of Life How has this Way with God impacted your experience of God? Jn. 7:38	31 Easter Day

WELCOME PHILL !

Phill Sterling will be serving as interim church musician. He began his church music leadership while in college, serving at two churches in the Ithaca area. He served at Christ Community UMC for almost 30 years and since his retirement has substituted at several area churches.



IMPORTANT INFO

- ⇒ Cancellations: Please check the website for any cancellations due to weather.
- ⇒ You're Invited! Pancake Breakfast February 13th
- ⇒ Happy Valentine's Day February 14th
- ⇒ Ash Wednesday services are February 14th @ 12 and 7 PM.
- ⇒ Grace Notes March Submissions are due February 21st.
- ⇒ Coming up in March: Baker High School Musical, Mathilda on March 10th.

Parish Cook Off, everything Irish on March 17th

Pictures? If you have a good picture from an event with Grace, please, please, please send it in with what and who is involved. You can email to the office or text it to me at 315-720-5975. Please include your name in the text also. Thanks, Allen W.

GIVE

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

HAVE YOU SEEN US ON FACEBOOK?

Grace Church livestreams our service to Facebook. There is a link to our Facebook page on header of our website at GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org.

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

ALLEN'S IN OFFICE HOURS

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

OR BY APPOINTMENT

OFFICE@GRACEEPISCOPALBALDWINSVILLE.ORG

BALDWINVILLE BIG CHILL

Grace's plunge team raised over \$1,000 for the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. Great job, now you can dry off and warm up! You can see the video on our [Facebook page](#).

Congratulations Fr. Joe, Lucas H, Brad P. & Matt.





BALDWINSVILLE
VOLUNTEER
CENTER

Christmas Bureau
Committee



Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau 2023

To: *Grace Church,*

Once again due to the overwhelming generosity of groups and individuals, the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau was able to help 121 families, 284 children, and 433 total individuals in Baldwinsville have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season! Because of you, these families received a Christmas dinner complete with a turkey, as well as extra food, clothing, coats, boots, hats and mittens, household items, books, and toiletries. Most importantly, the Christmas Bureau was able to "assist" Santa Claus by providing toys and a filled stocking for every child! Children under age 3 received a baby bag filled with items such as blankets, diapers, clothes, and toys.

We could never accomplish any of this without you. The entire Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau committee and our parent organization, the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center, would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks. Every year, we are amazed at the generosity and compassion of donors such as yourself. We also hope you will think of us again next year. Please like our Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau Facebook page for information on the 2024 Christmas Bureau.

We hope you have a happy, healthy, and blessed 2024!

Lauri Bernstein, Christmas Bureau Coordinator

mrsb4126@gmail.com (315) 727-5435

Janet Therrien, Christmas Bureau Chairperson

Stephanie Pelcher, Christmas Bureau Co-Chair



Baldwinsville Volunteer Center 8220 Loop Rd, Suite 101 Baldwinsville, New York 13027
Phone: 315-638-0251 bvillevolunteers@gmail.com

Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
office@graceepiscopalbaldwinsville.org
315 635 3214
110 Oswego Street, Baldwinsville, NY 13027



Sunday 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist alternating Rite 1 and Rite 2

WORSHIP



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