

GRACE NOTES—October 2024

THE REFLECTION POOL

Excerpt From a Letter to a Friend:

After a LONG time as a college swimming coach,
you were pretty surprised that I became an Episcopal priest.

Astonished might be an even better word!

You also asked me about similarities and differences between the two vocations. They are similar in that I have the opportunity to establish relationships with fairly large groups of people. In both swimming and the sanctuary it is important that everyone works together in harmony and that any conflicts are quickly resolved to the satisfaction of everyone. It is also important to create an inviting and compelling culture, so that new recruits (swim) or new visitors (church) will choose to stay.

The differences are mostly found in their respective goals. The goal of a swimming team is to go faster than before, both individually and collectively. This is measured objectively in minutes and seconds. It is also measured in points. The more points scored, both individually and collectively, the higher will be your place in the standings. Only one individual per event and only one team in the league can win the championship. Ideally there will be genuine expressions of humility and good sportsmanship all around, but “heaven” is achieved through speed and a higher level on the awards stand. That is a very practical goal.

In church no scores are kept and we don't worry about our place in the “standings”. There are no standings. Our goal is to help everyone both in and out of our church to get to “heaven”. Short or tall, fast or slow, black or white, wealthy or poor—everyone! As a matter of fact, there is a lot of debate over just what heaven is, where it is located, and how to get there. We call that a “holy mystery”. We generally resolve the matter by saying that heaven is found by being eternally in the spiritual and physical presence of God. It is hard to say what our eternal physical bodies will look like, but that's okay. The important thing is that we hope that everyone can be with God forever. So, our hard work does not yield faster times. It yields peanut butter, donations to food pantries, Thanksgiving turkeys, Easter baskets, toiletries, toys, pet supplies, pastoral visits, friendship, and a whole lot more that I can list here. At Grace we pray that all people can find, well, Grace! It isn't easy to achieve harmony in a polarized world, but that is the “hard work that we have been given to do”.

Peace, Fr. Joe

P.S. Don't be afraid to run, job, or walk with us at the B'ville Turkey Day Race on Nov. 28. All proceeds, of course, will go to the charity of our choice.

PET BLESSING

Grace Episcopal Church

GRACEEPISCOPALBALDWINSVILLE.ORG



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER
5TH
11:00 AM**



- ALL SPECIES ARE WELCOME, EVEN STUFFED ANIMALS. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR PET WILL BE SAFE, CONTAINED AND COMFORTABLE WHEN YOU VISIT.
USE A LEASH, CARRIER OR CRATE AS APPROPRIATE.
- IF YOU CAN'T TRANSPORT YOUR PET OR ARE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A SPECIAL PET, CONSIDER BRINGING A PICTURE OR OTHER TOKEN.
- ALL GOD'S CREATURES LOVE TO SING-A LITTLE EXTRA NOISE ON ST. FRANCIS DAY IS OKAY WITH US!

LIVESTREAMING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Livestreaming is a way for parishioners not able to come on Sunday to stay connected to our Sunday worship.

It is also a way for people to see what a service at Grace is like.

Little technical experience is needed.
One camera and an iPad is all the equipment that is used.
If you have questions or want to see how it works let us know!

Office@
GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org



RECENT MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS



7 bricks were added to the flagpole .



A new poem in the Memorial Garden donated by the Johnson family.



Dedication of the new BBQ pit.



Plant stands donated by Frank and Leslie Harper.

PEANUT BUTTER

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners we donated 118 jars of peanut butter to the BeeFull program at Baker High School. Thank you all!

FUN FROM THE PARISH PICNIC



VESTRY MEMBERS NEEDED

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
- ☞ 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.



COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR
ALLEN'S SCHEDULED OFFICE HOURS

TUES 5-7 WEDS 6-?

Hours may change without notice

office@graceepiscopalbaldwisnsville.org 315-635-3214

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST VESTRY NOTES

- Treasurer Tina Santy's financial report was accepted.
- Tina Santy's and Barbara Reeves's names will be added to
- the Key Bank and Seneca Savings banks lists of authorized signers.
- Brad Pettit's name will be deleted from the aforementioned accounts.
- Allen Wolf and Barb Reeves granted authority to access safety deposit box through December, 2024.
- New authorized people to be named in January, 2025.
- The Organ Maintenance Fund has received a generous donation.
- A bid for construction and installation of a new church sign has been accepted from Metropolitan Signs.
- Laura Moreau, Barb Reeves, and Nancy Fredette will manage the Stewardship/Pledge Campaign. Feel free to join.
- The Parking Lot Patrol will be in effect as of September 5.
- Barb Reeves appointed acting senior warden for remainder of term.
- The church is the emergency evacuation site for the school.
- September 8 is Brick Sunday and picnic.
- September 15 we will host our district dean

SEPTEMBER VESTRY NOTES

- The August financial report was accepted. The 2023 audit will be completed by Dave Ferrari and Adam Zaczkowski.
- Stewardship Season begins September 29 and runs to November 3, Please WALK IN LOVE as you consider your time, talent, and monetary gifts.
- It was approved to allow the Baldwinsville Theater Guild to use the education annex for their temporary housing (October through January)
- Our new church sign should be here next week.
- There will be a Blessing of the Animals October 5.
- Outreach sponsors Halloween candy donations through October 20 toward our part of the B'ville C of C Trick-or-Treat event.
- Earmark November 3, 2024--- Harvest Brunch and Stewardship Sunday.
More info to come.



YOUR INVITED!

HARVEST BRUNCH NOVEMBER 3RD AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE

All
are welcome!

RSVP TO:
OFFICE@GRACEEPISOPAL
BALDWINSVILLE.ORG
OR CALL THE OFFICE
315-635-3214
BY OCTOBER 27TH