

# GRACE NOTES — January 2025

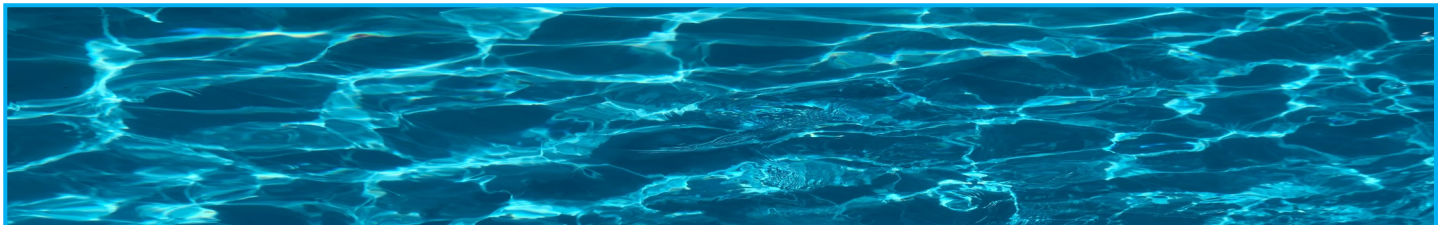
## THE REFLECTION POOL

My wife and son share the same birthday- December 26. We take pains to prevent their birthdays from being “swallowed up” by Christmas, which is the lament of many people with (late) December birthdays. This year we went to dinner at Pastabilities on Armory Square, which I am told is one of Syracuse’s finest restaurants and has been visited at least twice by Food Network’s Guy Fieri. What a tale of two worlds! Inside the warm, tastefully decorated restaurant; there were couples, families and friends dining and drinking to their heart's content. For the evening, at least, no one was concerned with the (considerable) expense, and the portions were enormous.

In contrast, during the half mile or so walk from the parking garage to the restaurant in 20 degree weather, we saw a very different reality. There were people asking for spare change who were dressed in threadbare jackets and coats that could not possibly ward off the chill. There was a small group of people huddled in a narrow space between two buildings with plastic bags piled up around them. Speaking in low tones and staring out into the night. The reasons people end up in situations like that are many, and they bear varying degrees of responsibility for their condition, but their existence and their suffering is undeniable. It is particularly difficult to see children in those circumstances. I was reminded of the scene in “A Christmas Carol” where the ghost of Christmas present escorts Scrooge to a bridge, under which a family is huddled around a small fire eating potatoes that had fallen off a cart. The head of the family could find no work.

Of course we should celebrate our good fortune and our relationships with family and friends! On the other hand, part of “the work we have been given to do “ is to see outside of the shells we create around ourselves- to expand our field of vision to see those whose realities are very different from ours. Ministry to those in need is the greatest mission of the church. May our generosity, and our faith, continue to grow in 2025.

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. Reports included last year were: Rector, Jr. Warden, Finance, Stewardship, Reception, Counters, Confirmation, Garden, Altar Guild, Outreach, Parish Life,

⇒Grace Notes submissions, are due by the middle of the month. Event wrap up, acknowledgments and pictures with descriptions are always appreciated.

⇒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

- November vestry notes approved as amended, thank you Dave and Adam for completing audits.
- Tina Santy presented November financials. Approved
- Locks and keys will be changed after the first of the year. The Safe Church program is needed to be taken by those who need it. An announcement will be sent when this
- happens.
- Father Joe had \$500 dollars deposited in is discretionary account from the Atwater funeral.
- December Outreach was achieved. Thank you.
- The next meeting is January 23. All invited.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**\*The Annual Meeting will be held on January 19th  
after the Sunday Service \***

## MEMORIAL GIFT

A note from Mother Cathy,

My father, Eugene Carpenter died last June at the age of 97. He visited Grace B'ville a few times during my tenure there as rector, and, as was his wont as a long-time Buildings & Grounds guy, noticed *everything* about the physical plant (and told me about it!). In his will he directed a gift of \$10,000 to Grace Baldwinsville. My siblings and I agree that the gift would be best directed to something infrastructure-related. Dad would be glad to know that something in the building is being repaired, replaced or improved due to his efforts.

Cathy Carpenter

The Vestry is in the process of receiving and will be working on deciding the best way to use this gift to improve our physical space in some way.

## OUTREACH



**Thank you to the  
congregation for the gener-  
ous donations of games for  
the Christmas Bureau and  
breakfast items for the  
Baker H.S. BeeFull program.  
All were greatly appreciated.**

### COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

#### ALLEN'S IN OFFICE HOURS

TUES 5 PM - 7PM WED 6:00 PM - ?

OFFICE HOURS MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

### 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!

# COOKIE SALE, BAND CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS

## WHAT A BUSY DECEMBER!





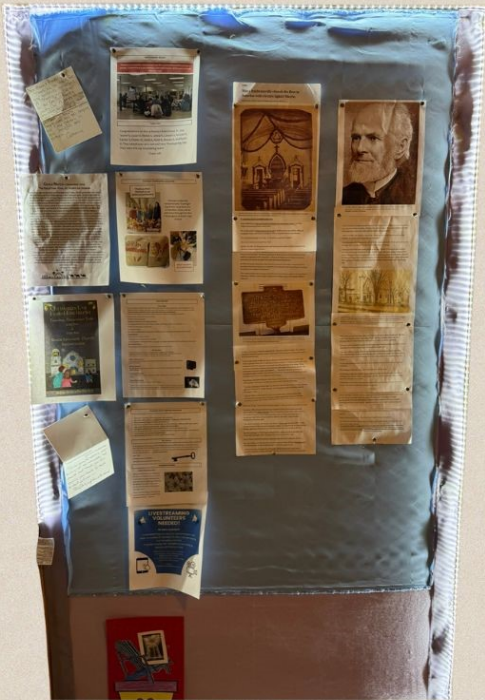
# TURKEY TROT

Some of the runners from Grace  
They raised \$790 on a wet and rainy Thanksgiving Day.  
They were the top fundraising team!



# BREAKING NEWS

## WHERE TO LOOK



The bulletin board in narthex is now illuminated. You can find the current issue of Grace Notes and any other current notices or local fliers on it.

There is also a print out of the great article about Grace Church's Christmas tree from long ago. Take a look as you leave the church...or on your way in!

## NEWS

The wall and table next to the kitchen in the welcome area has the current issue of This Week at Grace...also known as TWAG. It also has current posters about events coming up in both the parish and diocese.

On the table you can find the sheets to sign up for helping with our Sunday worship. Check it out!



# THE B'VILLE BIG CHILL

Freezin' For a Reason  
January 25th @ noon

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO BUT GO FOR A SWIM IN THE SENECA RIVER IN JANUARY?! I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER REASON TO PUT ON THE OLD SWIM SUIT AND JUMP INTO 32 AND A HALF DEGREE WATER THAN TO NOURISH THOSE WHO NEED ASSISTANCE. ANY HELP FOR THE BALDWINSVILLE FOOD PANTRY IS MUCH APPRECIATED. YOU CAN EVEN JOIN TEAM GRACE AND TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH US.  
THANKS TO ALL, FR. JOE



Visit our website for the link to donate.



[www.GraceBville.org](http://www.GraceBville.org)