

GRACE NOTES — February 2025

THE REFLECTION POOL

This winter we have, as of this writing, not seen the bare ground for about 6 weeks. It is the most consistent snow cover we have had in many years. It is undeniably a traditionally cold winter even if you don't go jumping in the Seneca River through a hole in the ice! The apparent quiet of the season is misleading to a certain extent because as a nation our political and social discourse is running hot! In any election there will be a winner and a loser. There will be those who view the results as good news and there will be those who do not. On almost every policy decision there will be those who say the outcome is good for the country and those who say it will be disastrous. This is expected. Peace does not mean an absence of conflict or disagreement. In a peaceful society we often have to **“agree to disagree”**. In the flurry of executive actions emanating from Washington in the first month of the new administration there is plenty to debate on legal, constitutional, and humanitarian terms. Good! Jesus himself strongly disagreed with some of the laws and policies of imperial Rome and he relished a lively **“discussion”** with those in his society who supported them. In the end he was crucified as an insurrectionist. We have the peace that flows from our faith in God, and hopefully, we will retain the secular peace that stems from our commitment to liberty and justice for all. Heaven forbid that we go down the path where to disagree, however honestly, with the people in charge becomes illegal. To fear for our safety or our livelihoods because we protest decisions that will do more harm than good is a model found in other places that we do not want to emulate! **“Liberty and justice for all”** is not so different from **“love your neighbor as yourself”**. The former is from the pledge of allegiance. The latter is the second great commandment from God. Do you agree with **this quote from the Prairie Home Companion; “Even in a time of elephantine vanity and greed, one never has to look far to see the campfires of gentle people”?** Beautiful. And to the gentle people, the good neighbors, need to make sure their voices are heard.

Peace, Fr. Joe



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Building Vision Ministry

A new committee is being formed to assess the use of spaces within the church and develop a revitalization plan. It would be beneficial to have representatives from various parish groups to collaborate on ideas for optimizing our spaces. If you're interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Tom LaMere or contact the office.

Memorials

We would like to bring back the memorials Ministry. The Memorial Ministry's responsibility is to oversee the Memorials Fund, administer donations to the fund, its expenditures and properly acknowledge and record gifts made to the Fund. This committee needs a chair and members. If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact the office.

Livestream

We are in need of volunteers to livestream our Sunday Service.
If you can use an iPad then you have all the skills needed.
Please reach out to Allen if you are interested.

Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Hannah --- Rector
Rector@GraceEpsicopalBaldwinsville.org
315-935-4198 Cell

Allen W. -- Communications Coordinator
Office@GraceEpsicopalBaldwinsville.org
315-635-3214 Church Office

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Senior Warden--Barb Reeves
SeniorWarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Junior Warden-- Stacey Wolf
JuniorWarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE PANCAKE SUPPER

Grace Episcopal Church

MARCH 4TH 5-6:30 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NO CHARGE, BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

110 OSWEGO ST. BALDWINVILLE, NY 13027

Shrove Tuesday, a Christian extravaganza, rolls in the day before Ash Wednesday! It's the grand finale before the 40-day Lent celebration kicks off. How do we party, you ask? With a pancake feast, of course! It's the perfect excuse to whip up those eggs and milk before they go on a Lenten vacation! Flip 'em high and dig in!



WWW.GRACEVILLE.ORG

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

2025 GRACE CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2025

Father Joe gave opening prayer.

10:25 - Meeting convened and polls opened for balloting

Allen Wolf explained voting procedure.

No nominations from floor

Polls close in one hour- 11:25

Susan Allen was appointed clerk of the annual meeting

Jeannie LaMere volunteered to be vestry clerk for 2025.

Sue Purdy welcomed and introduced new members Ken and Carol Souser.

Allen Wolf moved to accept 2024 annual meeting minutes; Leslie Harper seconded. Motion approved.

2024 Financial report by Tina Santy

\$16K more in surplus than was budgeted. Excess will roll over to FUNDS, and use will be determined by vestry.

2025 budget has a deficit of \$28K, mostly due to loss of Head Start lease.

About \$200k in reserve- some money is restricted; some is not.

Unified fund account has \$175K, Money market at Seneca Federal is \$199,500. CD is \$35K.

This year Capital improvement funds paid for blacktopping parking lot and repairing roof, and new church sign.

2025 budget was approved by vestry in December 2024.

2022 and 2023 audits are complete and submitted to the diocese.

The 2024 audit will be done professionally, as required, during the 2025 calendar year. (This is budgeted over 3 years.)

Snow plow contract is paid in lump sum, so that it is cheaper. More student parking could be rented since no one is using the church during school hours to help with revenue.

Discussion on liability in parking lot, as well as sledding on the hill. Barb Reeves will check with Cathy Hobart and report back.

Vestry will discuss snow fence installation.

Brad Pettit was remembered for his service and contribution to the church.

Barb Reeves addressed church members, thanking them for their contributions, and encouraged everyone to donate flowers, come to events, and host hospitality hours.

Allen W. Reinforced communication with the office. All announcements, flower orders, events need to be sent to the office and Allen will send information to the appropriate person or group.

New keys have been made and assigned. All key holders must attend 'Safe Church' training in person or online. Since florist will not receive a key, Barb will work with them on delivery protocol.

Allen suggested that the Memorials Ministry be resurrected, and initiate a Visions committee to work on how to reuse space and reconfigure existing rooms. Recent donations of \$10K and \$2K will allow the church to repair necessary areas. We need to clean out and brighten up spaces.

Meetings of present ministries need to occur so that past and present members of these committees can compile information that they have.

Nancy Fredette mentioned needing more people to serve as counters. Most committees could use more involvement.

Father Joe's commented that hope, energy, and interest are thriving in our church with optimism for the future. We are looking for potential groups to lease our space and will reach out to local religious groups who are leasing other spaces. Ideas can be brought to vestry members or the monthly meeting.

Barb moved to close the polls and Diane Coe seconded. Motion approved.

Tom LaMere moved to accept the slate of nominations for vestry. Carla Wiemers seconded. Motion approved.

Barb Reeves thanked outgoing vestry members, Sue Purdy and Pam Griffo. She then welcomed Stacey Wolf, Tina Santy, and Nancy Fredette as new members of vestry.

Stuart Allen moved to adjourn at 11:35; Allen Wolf Seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Allen

JANUARY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Vision Committee:

Tom LaMere volunteered to lead the Vision Committee.

It was suggested that each existing church committee appoint one representative to serve on the Vision Committee.

Memorial Ministry:

This ministry was discussed at the annual meeting.

Individuals interested in participating should contact a vestry member or the church office.

Live Safe Church Training:

The vestry is working on scheduling this training.

Live-streaming:

The church is interested in continuing to live-stream services.

Individuals should contact Allen Wolf for more information.

Appointments:

Jeannie LaMere was appointed Vestry Clerk.

Tina Santy was appointed Treasurer.

BALDWINVILLE BIG CHILL



BAPTISM

We welcomed into the household of God Charlotte Mae Nellis who was baptized January 12th. Charlotte is the daughter of Catherine Griffo & Deven Nellis and the granddaughter of Pamela & Scott Griffo and David Nellis .



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 - 7:00 PM WED 6:00 PM - ? OR BY APPOINTMENT

OFFICE@GRACEEPISCOPALBALDWINSVILLE.ORG

315-635-3214

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Website: GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org



WORSHIP

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