

# *Grace Notes*

*One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes*

Volume 4 Number 1

January 2024



## **FATHER HAL SENDS US A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE**

**[CLICK HERE FOR FR. HAL'S MESSAGE](#)**

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+



## DEACON'S MESSAGE



It seems so long ago now, but on November 21, 2023, our presiding Bishop Michael Curry conducted an online conversation on Zoom with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Anglican leader in the Middle East. Even though dated, I still think it is worth a listen. Click on the link for the Episcopal News Service's article: [Episcopal News Service Article](#)

At the time, there were an estimated 11,000 casualties in Gaza, and several hostages released that were kidnapped by the terrorist organization Hamas. We know that Israel's military action has continued these past six weeks. There are now more than an estimated 20,000 casualties in

Gaza. There are civilian casualties in Israel, as well, even though more of the hostages have been released. News from the Middle East and this ongoing war is agonizing. I have no other words for it. Caught in all of the crossfire are Palestinian children and Palestinian Christians.

Of course, the question is asked: What can we do?

When asked, the archbishop asked for prayer, above all else. That we certainly can do. I pray for peace in the Middle East and especially in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Most certainly, I cannot abide the terrorism of Hamas. Conversely, I cannot support the military actions and the killing of thousands of civilians by the Israeli military. This most definitely is a complex situation. I do wonder whether my prayers can change the hearts and minds of those in the seats of power who continue to negotiate for some resolution...But I can aid those who are striving to get people to safety and support them at this time of grief and trauma.

I think it wise to learn about—and give to—the nonprofit, [American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#) located in nearby Darien, Conn. This organization is closely monitoring the situation in Gaza and the Middle East. Their ongoing mission and ministries include financial support for schools, hospitals, and special care centers throughout Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan. They focus on organizations that provide care for children with disabilities, many of whom come from extreme poverty. They support Ahli Arab Hospital, which was recently bombed and suffered several hundred casualties.

Blessings,

Jean Marie

## VESTRY REPORT

### JOIN US WE MOVE FORWARD WITH GRACE INTO 2024!

The sands of time continue to fall as we prepared for and witnessed the birth of Jesus, said our silent good-byes and prayers for our beloved Frank Schnecker and Roger Rowe. We were truly blessed to have them in our church family. Those angels left an impressive legacy in our community and they will be missed. December highlights:



- Wreaths were delivered! Both campuses were “greened” - thanks to the Altar Guild for a great job.
- Thanks, Alison Ford, for leading our Loaves and Fish cooking team who served up another wonderful meal; almost 90 meals served and taken away by our guests. We welcome all to volunteer in 2024!
- How great is our repaired and restored organ? Thanks to Kate Pendzuk for managing all of the logistics: the repair schedules, electrician, and tuner, and ensuring all was ready for Lessons and Carols on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The special Service of Nine Lessons and Carols returned to Trinity Campus! Approximately 113 attended and the free-will offering (\$714!) was collected for the Ossining Food Pantry. Suji Jung, our Music Director, and Justin Tokke our guest Organist and Choirmaster at All Saints’, our full All Saints’ and Grace Choir, and Lydia Jung, violinist, and Miles Jung, cellist, were truly an early holiday gift to our happy audience. We should plan for a bigger audience next December 2024!
- We remain ever grateful for Fr. Hal; Deacon Jean Marie Angelo; the Altar Guild, lay readers, and ushers; Kate Pendzuk, Beth Pollack, Ray Farrell, our servers; our choir members; our sextons, Pablo and Anthony; and the staff, Tam and Tina, who all do so much behind the scenes to make our worship, fellowship, and special gatherings possible during the year.
- Finally, we thank our Vestry members for getting us through a challenging and exciting 2023!
- Our January Vestry meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Grace Church's Annual meeting will begin immediately after Sunday service on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be finished before Super Bowl begins; we promise!

Wishing our Grace family a most peaceful, productive, and robust 2024!

Wardens: Darryl Moy (2024) [darryl.moy@gmail.com](mailto:darryl.moy@gmail.com)  
Cecilia Quintero (2025) [cquintero1506@gmail.com](mailto:cquintero1506@gmail.com)

Vestry Members: Sarah Davis (2025) [songbird0606@outlook.com](mailto:songbird0606@outlook.com)  
Kellie Ishmael (2024) [kellieishmael@gmail.com](mailto:kellieishmael@gmail.com)  
Milton Kerr (2024) [mkdj46@yahoo.com](mailto:mkdj46@yahoo.com)  
Maribeth Osgood (2025) [mosgood@optonline.net](mailto:mosgood@optonline.net)  
Jo Ann McGrath (2026), [mcgrathinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrathinator@gmail.com)  
Kate Pendzuk (2026) [treasurergraceossining@gmail.com](mailto:treasurergraceossining@gmail.com)





## LOAVES AND FISH

### DINNER SERVED BY GRACE WITH GRACE!

Grace Loaves and Fishes had a busy evening on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We served 88 dinners in total. The menu was Shepherd's pie, green salad, and cookies or cake for dessert. ShopRite, once again, was terrific in donating day-old bread—two large cartons that went like hotcakes through the evening. People were picking up rolls for breakfast or bread for lunch the next day.

New volunteers included teens Anna Bomwell and her friend, Jay, who were so helpful setting up, breaking down, and serving our customers.

ShopRite's generosity has made me a customer for life. And Jay and Anna have made me a fan for life!

Contact me via email ([alisonford@msn.com](mailto:alisonford@msn.com)) or call me at 914-772-3905. Join us as we offer hospitality to our friends and neighbors. You'll be glad you did.

Alison Ford, coordinator

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## *Grace in Grief*



This confidential, safe, and welcoming grief support program meets bi-monthly from 10:00-11:30 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month in St. Paul's Campus Family Room. Open to people of all faiths, seeking support for the loss of a loved one. Our November dates are:

January 13

January 27

This is open to all who may be grieving in our Ossining/Briarcliff community! If you, or someone you know, may be seeking a group to help you process, live, and learn from a supportive community please, have them contact Fr. Hal [hal@graceossining.org](mailto:hal@graceossining.org) or Cecilia Quintero [cquintero1506@gmail.com](mailto:cquintero1506@gmail.com) for more information.



## ROGER ROWE

With a very heavy heart we bring you the sad news that Roger Rowe passed away in late December after a long battle with health issues.

Roger was a 65-year member of our Church. He started at 11 yrs. old as an acolyte for St. Paul's. In later years, he and Melanie were married at St. Paul's and both of their sons were baptized at St. Paul's.

Roger will always be our Buildings and Grounds Manager Emeritus.

Roger had a long career as a teacher and football coach in the Ossining Community. Many people knew Roger as Coach Rowe.

At this time, the family has decided to hold a private immediate-family- only service. In May, they will have an outside get together for all in honor of Roger.

Almighty God, Source of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please keep Melanie and the family in your thoughts and prayers.



### FRANK JOSEPH SCHNECKER

Frank Joseph Schneck, a resident of Ossining for more than 50 years, passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Frank was born in Manhattan on April 17, 1939 and was the son of the late Joseph and Paula (Sagl) Schneck. He was 84.

Frank married Marian Washburn in June of 1967 in Ossining. He moved to Ossining in 1973. He was a graduate of City College with a BA in Russian. He later went on to earn his Masters in Computer Science at Pace University in Pleasantville.

Frank was a retired VP of Information Technology at the Bank of New York. Prior to that, he had a lengthy career with IBM where he oversaw network control for North America.

He was a member of Grace Church of St. Paul's on the Hill, where he was a former Treasurer. He served on several PTA boards and was a committee member for the redistricting of the Ossining School District.

Frank was a former Coach and Referee for AYSO Soccer in Ossining. He was an outstanding athlete in his own right, having played semiprofessional football and enjoyed success in basketball and bowling.

He served in the U.S. Army as an MP during the Vietnam War. He was also based out of Tripler Army Medical Center (Army Post Scofield Barracks) where he served as a translator.

Frank is survived by his loving wife Marian (Washburn); his 4 devoted children: Marian Elizabeth (Mark Filie), Frank Warren (Kirstin Reynolds), Moira (Joseph Escaravage), and Eddie (John Ramsey); and niece Kelly; His adoring 7 grandchildren; Ella, Audrey, Claire, Brigid, Cara, Maeve, and Teagan; as well as his cherished in-laws: Maureen, Jim, Donna, Heidi, and Ann.

Please keep them all in your prayers.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Grace Church, P.O. Box 108, Ossining NY 10562.



### ATTIC TREASURES AT THE FOOD PANTRY

Jo Ann McGrath and Beth Pollack continue to spread our wealth! They took some of our remaining Lantern Shop Christmas treasures to a December distribution of the Pantry. All were much appreciated...and we made more room for us!

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### CHRISTMAS EVE 2023



A Final Silent Night...



## ONE MORE ADVENTURE FROM CAROLYN BLACK



Remember the story a few months ago when I was just learning to drive the Austin Healey with the manual transmission and I was stuck on a hill? The bus driver and all the people on the bus were laughing hysterically when my dog jumped out of the car and I still could not get the car to move? I, of course, flooded the car and there I sat through three (3) red lights...and green ones too. Well, it finally cooperated and we did get going...and that dog

(named Terry) was at the front door when my 2 year old

daughter, Dawn and I got home. Needless to say, I was furious with myself as well as the dog.

Anyway, I did get the hang of how to drive the car with the clutch and gear shifting and coordinating the two...

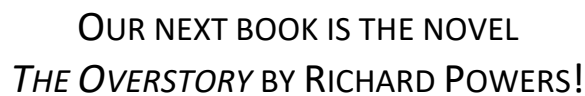
But three days after the bus incident, I came out of my house, arms loaded with books ready to go to class to find that the top was missing from the car! It was a British motor car and small enough for one person to lift the whole top of the car off at once. I panicked! I didn't know how I was going to get another top for the car, get to class, drop my daughter off at the sitter, and make the dog go back into the house! (My husband was in Vietnam.) Trying to figure out what to do, I had some friends at the women's college across the street (Bennett College, one of the HBCU colleges for African American women) and they kept my daughter that day. Meanwhile, I walked to the bus stop (still carrying my books) and found the change for the bus. It was only a quarter then. Lo and behold, as I got on the bus, the dog Terry jumped on behind me! I thought he was home! So I had to get off the bus, take him back to the house and wait for the next bus. I was exhausted by the time I got to class.

That same afternoon, I called my friend Jon H. who was at A & T University (another HBCU college) who was from my hometown. He came right over after I told him my top was stolen from my little Sprite. He thought it was funny, at first, but then it was predicted to rain heavily that evening. What would you do? Go to the local hardware store for a tarp. His suggestion.

I did not do that...Instead, I just cried - it had been such a lousy day. I prayed fervently that night asking God to help me through this dilemma.

Luckily, it didn't rain and the next morning the top was back on the car. It seems he went to one of the dorms and told some of the students what had happened; my husband was in Vietnam and I was raising my two year old and going to Woman's College. The students who took the top put it back on the car. I never found who did it—just a note saying "Sorry" on the windshield.

God does answer prayer...I truly believe...



**This novel will be scheduled during our 2024  
TBC Champagne Toast Gathering  
Date: TBD**



Share your experience of the Holy Spirit at Work!



Seeks Articles for the January 2024 *Episcopal New Yorker*

From clergy and laypeople of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

We apologize for the short deadline, which is **Monday, January 8**

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We are particularly looking for

- Stories of new things or the renewal/reinvigoration of old ones
- Instances of the Holy Spirit at work in your community
- Short news updates from your congregation, chaplaincy, outreach ministry, school, other organization or anything we've forgotten to mention.

### **News Items**

If you have a news item consisting of a photo and up to 200 words of text, please go ahead and send it in. We cannot promise to use it, but will do our best to do so.

### **Longer Items**

For longer items, we will read all submissions, but we strongly suggest consulting the editor before you begin to write. Lengths for longer items should be either 450 or 900 words.

[Please Click to Email the Editor to Discuss Your Idea](#)

Or call/text Nicholas Richardson, Editor: 917.838.1062



The  
Episcopal Diocese  
of New York

The Episcopal/Jewish Dialogue Committee of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission of the Diocese of New York presents a series of Educational Forums on

**Facing Christian Anti-Judaism: Recognizing and Understanding Interreligious Implications in the Revised Common Lectionary and Hymnody in the Church**

On five Thursday evenings in 2024 7:00-8:30 PM Via Zoom



**Session 1**

**Thursday, January 18**

Introduction: Anti-Judaism, Antisemitism, and Anti-Zionism

**Session 2**

**Thursday, February 15**

The Lectionary

**Session 3**

**Thursday, March 14**

Sacred Music and Hymnody

**Session 4**

**Thursday, March 21**

Preaching: John's Passion Gospel

**Session 5**

**Thursday, April 18**

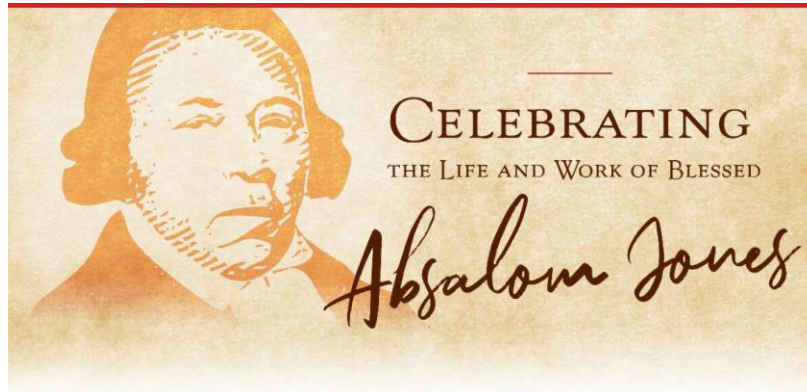
A Peace Proposal for Jews and Christians

[Click here for more information and to register for the Zoom webinars](#)





The  
**Episcopal Diocese**  
of New York



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*Join the celebration!*

*~ Register your congregation's participation below ~*

**Saturday, February 3 at 10:30 a.m.**

**The Holy Eucharist**

Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine  
1047 Amsterdam Avenue at West 112th Street, Manhattan

**The Rt. Rev. Andrew ML Dietsche**

Bishop of New York  
*Celebrant*

**The Rev. Yejide Peters Pietersen**

Associate Dean and Director of Formation  
Berkeley Divinity School, Yale University  
*Preacher*

**Congregations are invited to send acolytes, ushers, clergy ~ and singers!**

[Click here for more information and to register your  
congregation's participation!](#)



### **JANUARY EVENTS**

- 13 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 14 Martin Luther King, Jr. Service at Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church
- 27 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 31 Vestry Meeting (location TBD)

1/29-2/18 Homeless Shelter (Trinity Campus)

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Ryan Echevarria (Mahlau's grandson)	2	Katie Pauline	18
Jennifer Bomwell	4	Barbara Rose	18
Karley Ann Ryan	4	Samara Davis	20
Kate Pendzuk	6	Julie Davis	25
Marcus Roman	6	Salvatore John Triano	26
Margery Barnes	7	Elizabeth Bender	27
Kyle Muth	8	Ed Shultz	27
Lorraine Baird	9	Katrinka Kip	28
Tyler Shaw	11	Tom Greene	31
Jeanne (Tenety) Rothrock	14	Chloe Nicole Wagner	31
Beverly Vaillancourt	17		

### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Nunzio and Lori Liberti 7



### **CLERGY**

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon

### **VESTRY**

Darryl Moy, Warden	Cecilia Quintero, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk	
Kate Pendzuk, Treasurer	
Sarah Davis	Milton Kerr
Kellie Ishmael	Maribeth Osgood

### **STAFF**

Tina Farrell and Tamsen Hernández, Parish Administrators  
Suji Jung, Music Director  
Katherine Pendzuk, Verger  
Anthony Sena, Sexton, St. Paul's Campus  
Pablo Montoya, Sexton, Trinity Campus

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To love God is a call to action. Strengthened by prayer, worship, and study,  
Grace Church embraces and serves all people, the earth, and every living thing.