

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 4 Number 5

May 2024

Hello everyone,

As you can see from this month's newsletter, there is a lot, as always, going on at Grace. In fact, as we "round the bend" into spring and summer, there is still much to support and get involved in at Grace.

First, though, let me give you an update. Thank you to everyone who provided names of contractors. As you may recall, Grace will be painting the Lantern Shop and other rooms at our St. Paul's campus so we can rent the rooms to generate more income for Grace. I have called all the contractors and many will be coming out soon to provide job bids on the painting work. We shall keep you informed.



Thank you for all who supported our second annual Spring Blessing Sunday service. This year, we had Mrs. Amanda Slattery, a local representative for the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (afedj.org), speak to us about the inspiring programs taking place in Israel, Jordan, and the Middle East. We raised over \$1,000 for AFEDJ. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity and let's continue to keep AFEDJ and all in Israel in our prayers.

The Lantern Shop is having a liquidation sale this Saturday, as Grace participates in the annual Ossining-wide yard sales. See more about this in this newsletter.

One of the projects being done as part of the St. Paul's renovation is laying new laminate flooring in the St. Paul's parish hall and hallway. Now that those bids are under way, we are ready to launch a new Task Force: the SP Parish Hall Task Force. This group will make recommendations to the vestry for changes the Parish Hall to make it more functional for us and potential renters. Remember, task forces have a beginning, middle, and end, often lasting no more than a few months. All are invited to be on the SP Parish Task Force and you may be on more than one Task Force at Grace. If you would like to join, please email your name to Tina (tina@graceossining.org).

There's another Task Force we need your help with, and it is on the Trinity Campus: The Trinity Art Support Task Force. Our beautiful stained-glass windows at Trinity need hundreds of thousands of dollars in renovations to not collapse in on themselves. This task force will

wrestle with how we will accomplish this needed renovation work. Every option is on the table, from looking for grants to selling some of the art at Trinity so we have money to support the remaining art at Trinity. If you have an interest or strong feelings about the artworks at Trinity, I encourage you to join this Task Force. We have a lot of work ahead of us and would appreciate as much participation as possible. Again, email Tina your name and you shall be included.

Some of these issues can feel daunting. As we build the next levels of Grace's integration, though, it's important to remember that we are in this together, and God is with us in our efforts. In fact, at the feast of Pentecost, celebrated this month, we give thanks to God for the gift of God's Holy Spirit, with us and in us. God is with us in our discernment and hard work. Our job is to discern where the Spirit may be moving and pointing us... and to faithfully follow. That takes discernment work, together. Let's do it!

I close with the Collect for Pentecost, as it relates to our work together at Grace:

“O God, who on Pentecost taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”

Amen!

With gratitude, love, and prayers,

Fr. Hal+



DEACON'S CORNER



This year, the Transgender Day of Visibility fell on March 31st, which was also Easter Sunday. While there was much celebration and sharing on social media, the Episcopal transgender and LGBTQ communities did not have the chance to celebrate with Eucharists or prayer vigils. It is understandable.

Still, a number of transgender Episcopalians and their allies thought it important to do something. They approached Bishop Matt Heyd with a request. Can we pick a day for a celebration at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine? Not surprisingly, he was completely supportive.

On Saturday, May 4th, at noon, we will have a Celebration of Trans Joy and Resilience at the Cathedral. All are invited! (The flyer is on the following page.)

The Rev. Deacon Lainie Murrell, who is an advocate for the trans community and well-known to us at Grace—especially transgender youth—has created a website (ednytrans.org), social media accounts (<https://www.instagram.com/ednytrans/>), and promotional material to get the word out.

PILL BOTTLE DONATIONS

Some of you have asked about getting the labels off your bottles before you donate them. Although I have developed a nice routine to do this, I can understand people wanting to do it themselves. There are a few ways to go about this.

- Put the medicine bottles in the freezer overnight. Then peel off the next day.
- If you are up to it — you can also apply heat with a hair dryer and then peel. (If there is still glue and residue on the bottle, apply a little bit of Goo Gone.)



Celebration of *Trans* Joy and Resilience

A very special noonday prayer service and reception with
Episcopal Bishop Matt Heyd presiding,
OCCA Bishop Lynn Walker preaching, and service music by
Transcend Ambassadors

SATURDAY MAY 4TH AT 12:00 NOON

At the Cathedral of St. John the Divine



Se proporciona
traducción al español!

Spanish Translation
provided!

Unase a nosotros!
Join us!

The Cathedral
of St. John the
Divine
1047 Amsterdam
At 112th St.Ave.,
NY, NY

For more info
OR to get involved:
ednytransjoy@
gmail.com

LATINX- INSPIRED LUNCH, and **DANCE MUSIC** by the
TRANS SALSA GROUP LAS MARIQUITAS

ALL ARE WELCOME!



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

May 2	7:00 PM	Evening Grace Meditative Service (St. Paul's Campus)	
May 5	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 12	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 16	7:00 PM	Evening Grace Meditative Service (St. Paul's Campus)	
May 19	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	The Day of Pentecost
May 26	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Trinity Sunday

All Sunday services are live streamed to our YouTube channel. And you can also find them there and on our Facebook page after the service is over. The links are:

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z_ucCKEGA
 Grace's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/graceossining/>

EVENING GRACE



Evening Grace is a bi-weekly lay-led spiritual service based on quiet meditation and alternate forms of worship including movement, chanting, walking meditation, etc. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. During the summer, we will meet at our St. Paul's campus.

We hope you can join us! Questions? Contact us at eveninggrace@graceossining.org.



WARDEN'S REPORT

Grace's April Buds are Blooming this May!

- Our shelter guests left Trinity campus on April 1st. We are most thankful to Kate for organizing our space to accommodate our guests and to the Rev. Tim Ives for arranging to feed them.
- Many thanks to Kate Pendzuk, Beth Pollack, and Megan Whalen, as they continue the transition of our updated 2024 Treasurer and Bookkeeper Business model.
- Grace Church hosted Amanda Slattery, representing the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) on Blessings Sunday. Thanks to you and our plate collection and Lantern Shop sales we raised over \$1000 for AFEDJ. If you would still like to contribute, their website is <https://afedj.org/>
- Grace's Kitchen Angels served our Loaves & Fish guests this past Saturday, April 27th. See Alison's update and consider joining our L&F team. Our next dinner is July 6th.
- Thanks to everyone who provided names of their preferred contractors for evaluation as we prepare to polish up our campuses for needed repairs, updates, and rentals. We will be making our selections soon!
- BTW: Grace is looking for assistance with grant writing. Please let Hal or the Wardens know if you can help. There is a mid-May deadline to apply for a security grant and a potential June 15th deadline for a sustainability grant (TBD). Your experience and time will be most appreciated!
- Is financial management your strength or passion? Grace is looking for one, preferably two, people to serve on our Investment Committee with Richard Shaw. This committee meets quarterly to manage our investment portfolio and reports to our Finance Committee. Total time spent during the year is 18-30 hours or roughly 1.5 – 2.5 hours per month.

- Grace is participating in the Ossining Wide Rummage Sale, this Saturday, **May 4th**. from 11 AM – 2 PM. We will be located @ SPOTH by the Lantern Shop. Contact Beth Pollack (bethleibpollack@gmail.com) if you can help Sell, Sell, Sell! Many thanks to Karen Pauline (and Lantern Shop Ladies), an amazing partner, supporting our community and AFEDJ. Thanks to Beth, Mel, and Jo...and many others!
- Hard Hat required! Next time you visit Trinity campus, check out the work in progress in the kitchen. B&G has been busy preparing for the installation of a new commercial dishwasher and 2-bay sink so Loaves & Fish can continue their food ministry! We hope to be done soon. God Bless them all!

Wardens: Darryl Moy (2026) darryl.moy@gmail.com
 Cecilia Quintero (2025) cquintero1506@gmail.com

Vestry Members:
 Sarah Davis (2025) songbird0606@outlook.com
 Kellie Ishmael (2027) kellieishmael@gmail.com
 Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com
 Maribeth Osgood (2025) mosgood@optonline.net
 Jo Ann McGrath (2026) mcgrathinator@gmail.com
 Kate Pendzuk (2026) katependzuk@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE



Honor & Celebrate AAPI
 Heritage & Ministry

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The 10th Anniversary

The consecration of

The Rt Rev Allen K. Shin

Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of New York

Friday, May 17th 2024

6 - 8 pm

The Cathedral Church of
 St John the Divine
 New York City



Green **SATURDAY**
Ossining **MAY 4**

OSSINING/BRIARCLIFF TOWN-WIDE

TAG SALE

10AM - 4PM

FOR MORE INFO:

WWW.GREENOSSINING.ORG/TAGSALE

The Lantern Shop will be having a sale 10:00 AM-4:00 PM on Saturday, May 4th. All merchandise will be reduced at 50% off or more. Wonderful gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, gifts for babies and young children. There will many items on sale at bargain prices in the upper parking lot. Hope to see you there!



The Ossining Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization which provides the library with funds for programs, service enhancements, and capital projects, over and above the regular operating budget. The Foundation is building a permanent endowment to ensure the future success of the library. More information on the Foundation can be found here:

<https://ossininglibrary.org/support-opl/foundation/>

The Ossining Library Foundation is seeking new board members. Prospective candidates should have an interest in and knowledge of fundraising. Qualities of particular focus include social media skills and events coordination. Please contact us at foundation@ossininglibrary.org for more information.

Grace in Grief



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

May 11

May 25

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 or Cecilia Quintero cquintero1506@gmail.com

LOAVES AND FISH

On Saturday we served 35 meals, 25 of which were in-house. Our menu was chicken pot pie, green salad on the side, and assorted desserts. One of our 4-year-old patrons described the meal as "too many vegetables."

New this time was a soundtrack. We had some classical Spanish Guitar in the background via I heart radio and Father Hal's hooking us up. Teenagers Darius and Jay-lin were a great help. And kudos to Shop Rite who donated so much baked goods.



Our next date is July 6th. Please contact me at alisonford@msn.com if you have any questions or would like to help!



Weekly Bible Study is a Zoom ministry on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM. The Gospel to be discussed will be listed in the Friday and Tuesday email messages, as will the Zoom link. You can learn what that is weekly by visiting www.lectionarypage.net. Bookmark it!

Led by Fr. Hal, we will ask questions such as:

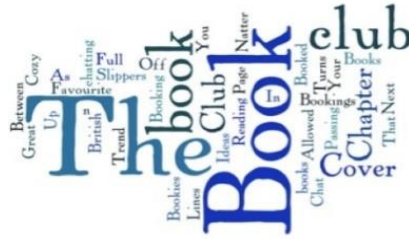
- What do you like about the lesson?
- What makes sense to you?
- What do you dislike?
- What doesn't make sense?
- If you had to preach on this scripture, what would the theme be? Why?

Some great features of this Bible Study are that one is never behind. If you miss a week, it's a different lesson next week and it's never cumulative. No knowledge of the Bible needed; just curiosity and a desire to learn more. No special translation needed, either.

To join, [click here](#) on Tuesday. (Btw, the link will also be sent in Tuesday's message.) Come check it out!



The Building Safety Team will be looking into updating Grace's physical building safety and safety procedures over the next few months. Amy Kitahata-Sporn, Kellie Ishmael, and Milton Kerr had one organizational meeting and will be meeting again on Wednesday, May 8th at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room at the St. Paul's campus. If you have any thoughts or questions or would like to join the team, contact Amy Kitahata-Sporn at: amykitspo@gmail.com or speak to Amy, Kellie Ishmael, or Milton Kerr.



MORNINGS IN JENIN, a novel by Susan Abulhawa, was an international bestseller in 2010. Current world events following the October 7th Hamas’ surprise attack and hostage taking of Israelis has led us to a deeper, dark, cruel, and anxious time. This Lenten Season and Ramadan/Passover (March 10-April 29) really underscored the fragility of the future, making it a perfect time to learn more about the complex history of Palestine & Israel. I just pray that before we next get together to discuss this novel there will be a peace agreement/ceasefire and that the hostages will be returned home. That would be a tremendous relief for much of the world.

Tentative TBC discussion: Saturday, June 29th on our St. Paul’s campus at noon

THE SWEETNESS OF WATER by Nathan Harris, is an unforgettable debut novel about trauma and survival during the early Reconstruction period in the American South. Focusing on the period just after Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox and the enforcement of emancipation in the South through the presence of Union troops, Harris asks a question Americans have yet to figure out: How does a community make peace in the wake of civil war? [NPR’s review](#) had this packed sentiment about the timelessness of this story and its relevance today.

Tentative TBC discussion: Sunday, October 20th after the service.

THE COVENANT OF WATER by Abraham Verghese (yes, I see a theme here in the last two titles-just a wild coincidence) has come up for me after seeing the following recent 6:43 minute interview with this gifted writer on CBS Sunday Mornings.

https://youtu.be/ZBaohVMSeLc?si=_JyscUu7Psbw8LiG

We have previously read and enjoyed his earlier book *Cutting for Stone* and I thought we should add this one to our list, especially since Oprah has optioned it to produce a film version of this novel. I had visions of maybe another Oscar/Champagne Toast/TBC Event in our future? Here is the NYTimes review for your consideration:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/19/books/review/the-covenant-of-water-abraham-verghese.html?login=email&auth=login-email>

(I hope you will forgive me for breaking my “no long books” rule: it is over 700 pages. Hopefully Audible or the extra time the scheduled 2025 discussion date gives us will mitigate the task a bit.)

Tentative TBC discussion: early 2025 before our annual TBC Champagne Toast



MAY EVENTS

- 4 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 11 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 12 Mother's Day
- 19 Pentecost (10:30 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 25 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 26 Trinity Sunday (10:30 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 29 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, location TBD)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Raymond Farrell	1	Christine Holsten Schuler	12
Jessica Kamp	2	Oliver Gulian	14
Nicola Kenny	3	Michael Roman	15
Melanie Rowe	5	Charles Korr	18
Carolyn Black	6	Jayson Aryee	19
Ken Shepard	6	Fernanda Landim	19
Alexis Cullen	11	Steven DiLoreto	23
Cecilia Quintero	12	Rick Caulfield	28

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Patricia and Carl Gonsalves	2
Dorothee and Rick Caulfield	5
John and Ann Farrell	18
Joe Scappaticci and Jean-Charles DeOliveira	21
Allison and Noel Echevarria	22
Michael and Karen Pasioka	23
Jim and Marti Bowen	27
Luis and Susan Madera	29



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

Sarah Davis Maribeth Osgood
Kellie Ishmael Kate Pendzuk
Milton Kerr

STAFF

Beth Pollack, Treasurer
Tina Farrell and Tamsen Hernández, Parish Administrators
Suji Jung, Music Director
Katherine Pendzuk, Verger
Megan Whalen, Bookkeeper
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.