

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 6 Number 7

July/August 2026

Happy July and August, everyone!



I hope you survived the heat wave intact and enjoyed a meaningful 4th of July. We did, and I hope you did, too. In this summer newsletter, I want to highlight a few things for your consideration since we won't have another newsletter until September.

First, a few people who could not make the June 14th New Futures summary asked me about how that process concluded. As I've said before, if more than two people have the same question, I assume others do as well. So here is a quick summary for everyone, with New Futures next steps in September and the Fall added in.

The bottom-line purpose of the first part of the New Futures program was to engage with one another and the local Ossining community deeply so we could discern a clear sense of how Grace could be of genuine service — following the vision and values of Christ and the guiding of the Holy Spirit — for others in Ossining. In the theological language of the program, that's hearing a sense of the Holy Spirit's call to Grace through the people we seek to serve and support.

Grace has indeed heard a very clear and repeated sense of call from dozens of for-profit and nonprofit organizations. The call we have repeatedly heard is the recognition and affirmation that the treasure of Ossining is its diversity and that Grace should actively be involved in supporting, protecting, promoting, and enhancing that treasure in Ossining, as many other individuals and organizations are doing. Specifically, we heard again and again from community leaders and individuals that many Ossining groups have no or limited space of their own and need space for their operations. They requested that Grace share more of its space, including sharing space as yearly leases and one-time events.

This is significant. We aren't guessing now what Ossining needs and how Grace can be maximally helpful; we have been told, repeatedly. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

Additionally, community leaders like the head of the Ossining School system, important business leadership groups, smaller non-profits, and local residents have asked me if they could use our space immediately to promote their programming even before we make our campus decision! That's how urgent the need for space is. They need it NOW. "The harvest is plentiful; but the laborers are few." (Matthew 9:37).

Realize this: Grace is blessed with something everyone wants and needs in Ossining: space! We have what they need. What a tremendous opportunity to be a blessing to others! As Paul wrote:

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way." (2 Corinthians 9: 8-11)

Once we come back in September, we will begin the process of discussing which campus (if either) will help Grace live out that sense of call, in addition to everything else Grace needs to do as an Episcopal church to thrive in Ossining. This will include discussing deferred maintenance at each campus, the values of each campus and their contents, budget projections, what our vision for Grace is to be a thriving Episcopal Church in Ossining, and more.

In other words, there is still important work to be done starting in September and no decisions have been made about any of our potential actions. The discussions will start in the fall, and the vestry hopes the final campus decision will be made before our February 2027 Annual Meeting. The sooner, the better...but the decision can't be rushed. It needs to be a thoughtful, prayerful, deliberate, rational, and faithful community discussion together so we can make sure together that we are positioning Grace to thrive for decades to come while responding effectively to the call we have so clearly heard.

Thank you to all who have participated in and labored in the field of the New Futures process since last September. It has been a long but successful endeavor together! Thank you! And thanks be to God!

Now — rest! Enjoy July and August as best you can, as we have some important discernment work together starting in September. Lori and I are going to discover more of the area surrounding our house in Catskills, work on our house, enjoy being together, and rest up for another important year starting in September. What's your plan?

Never hesitate to reach out if we can support you in any way. These are challenging times we are living through together! And never hesitate to reach out to God in prayer:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(Matthew 11:28-30)

Faithfully,

With love and prayers, *Fr. Hal*



July 5	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Trinity Campus)	Proper 9
July 12	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 10
July 19	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Trinity Campus)	Proper 11
July 26	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 12
August 2	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 13
August 9	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 14
August 16	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	St. Mary the Virgin
August 23	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 16
August 30	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (TBD)	Proper 17

All Sunday services are live streamed to our YouTube channel. You can find our recorded services 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/>

DEACON'S MESSAGE

SPIRIT OF '76

Fifty years ago, in the summer of 1976, I was a recent high school graduate getting ready for my freshman year of college. I was also keenly aware that America was 200 years old that year. You could not miss it. History was all around us in the form of TV specials, books, and magazines, and even special pop songs. (Elton John's *Philadelphia Freedom*, remains one of my favorites.)



In the adolescent angst that defines high school for so many of us, being a member of the bicentennial class made it just a little easier for me. I loved history. I continue to love history. I enjoyed every aspect of this — from the display of the Tall Ships arriving in New York, to the local parades and country fairs. We even had new money in the form of the bicentennial quarter.

I know now that Congress created the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in 1966, and disbursed over \$20 million in administrative funding and grants to recognize more than 12,000 local "Bicentennial Communities." Celebrations abounded in cities and towns across the land. That was the point.

Fast forward to 2026 — our semiquincentennial. For so many reasons, I am not feeling the same joy, and it isn't because I am 50 years older. It is not only because our politics seem so destructive and divisive. Remember, we were recovering from the Watergate scandal in 1976 and there were numerous cynics and doomsayers who claimed that our democracy would never be the same. It is because we've missed the mark in a big way.

Even though Congress created America 250 to disburse funds for our celebration, our president saw fit to create a separate organization, Freedom 250. So, a divided nation became even more divided. During these past months we've seen golden statues and eagles erected in our nation's capital, but little of the many celebrations that gave each town a way to participate. There is now questioning of the funds and how they have been used and I am sure this will only continue in the months ahead.

What to do? Let us remember that 1776 was just the beginning of it all. We signed a declaration, but we did not win our freedom until 1781, so I will be celebrating the Battle of Yorktown some five years from now. We could set our sights on the Constitution, ratified in 1788.

Meanwhile, I have been steeped in my reading of history and learning about our founding fathers and mothers. Each was personally flawed. Each had their own vision of what America could be. And the history of the Episcopal Church is directly entwined with the birth of our nation.

Here's a prayer from our *Book of Common Prayer*:

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I wish you all a restful and restorative summer!

— Deacon Jean Marie

FATHER'S DAY AT THE BOATHOUSE



From Carolyn Black:

This was how Art wanted to spend Father's Day: playing drums at the Boathouse with Mike and Miriam Risko and folks who came to the Open Mic Event. Many people participated by singing, playing guitar, and just playing different instruments. We learned how to play the harmonica and the ukelele. It was so much fun.



WARDEN'S REPORT

"We need God's Grace. We need each other."

Bishop Matthew Heyd

Where do miracles happen or even come from in 2026?

While many of us may have had our moments seeking/ praying for signs of hope recently: Don't Despair! Despite whatever media, newsfeeds, or algorithms may be displayed on your screens regularly, please keep your mind, soul, and heart open to signs of wonder, hopefulness, salvation, and renewal in our time this season! The items listed below have given us New Yorker a reason to smile and remember that we are better, stronger and more inspired together ❤️ We invite you all to search and recognize your own special events and moments this summer too ❤️

- ★ Knicks in 5
- ★ Canyon of Heroes Parade
- ★ Pride Weekend
- ★ Puerto Rican Day Parade
- ★ SCOTUS 14th Amendment decision
- ★ Tall Ships & Fireworks in NY Harbor
- ★ France's gifted Liberty Light show @ Statue of Liberty on July 4th
([Click here](#) to see the 10-minute video!)

Relax, Refresh and Reflect!

Wishing you all many blessings 🙏!!

Wardens: Cecilia Quintero (2027) cquintero1506@gmail.com
Richard Shaw (2028) rsshaw@gmail.com

Vestry Members: Ann Barringer Spaeth (2027) abspaeth55@gmail.com
Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com
Alison Ford (2028) alisonford@msn.com
Maribeth Osgood (2028) mbosgood@outlook.com
Graham Gulian (2029) ggulian@gmail.com
Jo Ann McGrath (2029) mcgrathinator@gmail.com

When I lost you,
I didn't just lose a person
- I lost a lifetime
of moments we
hadn't lived yet.

💔🕊️

Our summer dates are:

July 25

August 22



Please save the OCTOBER 4th date!

Wishing you all a healthy, hydrated and safe Summer ☀️

GRACE'S WEDDING PARTIES



Oliver and Emily Gulian



Jayson and Christina Aryee

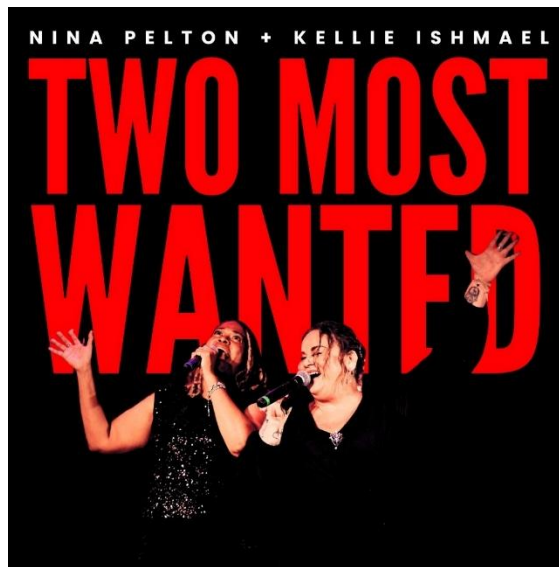


Max and Lili Gulian

WELCOME, SUMMER!



Join us for Summer Afternoon Tea on Thursday afternoon, July 23rd, from 4:00–5:30 PM at our St. Paul's Campus. Jo McGrath & Amy Kitahata-Sporn thought it would be nice to gather informally to chat. No agenda, just company. Please let us know if you would be interested or just drop by. Tea will be provided. If anyone has any questions or would like more information, please email Tina at tina@graceossining.org



KELLIE ISHMAEL AND NINA PELTON: TWO MOST WANTED

Stand back for a new chapter in the musical partnership of powerhouse performers, Nina Pelton & Kellie Ishmael as the fiery duo is re-born as “Two Most Wanted”.

These celebrated cabaret artists continue their 30-year musical road trip with a brand-new show full of their signature, stunning vocals and harmonies. Expect songs about a friendship that has survived it all: Loss, love, despair and, ultimately, hope.

The pair’s longtime musical director, **Jody Shelton**, rides shotgun for a road trip through soul, funk, Broadway, and show-stopping power ballads. Two Most Wanted’s debut outing will move you in thrilling ways to unexpected destinations.

Thursday, August 6, 2026

7:00 PM (Doors Open at 5:30 PM)

\$25.00 - \$35.00

[Click here](#) to get tickets



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Want to go deeper in your faith journey? Consider Education for Ministry

EfM is a 27-week course in which participants study what the Bible says, and also learn how to understand the Bible within its historical, literary, and cultural settings. Biblical studies form the primary work of the first two years. EfM helps participants understand and then apply Holy Scripture to daily life. God's revelation through Christian tradition is taken seriously by EfM, from the earliest biblical messages, through the development of liturgy and theology, and even to the context of the challenges we face in our own times and daily lives. In the environment of the weekly seminar, this study becomes the fodder for discussion and theological reflection.

Each seminar group sets its schedule to accommodate the thirty-six weeks of the EfM: Classic and EfM: Wide Angle programs. Each seminar includes worship, community life, theological reflection, and a reflective discussion of the participants' study from that week's assignments.

Participants experience twenty-seven weeks of EfM: Classic and EfM: Wide Angle by engaging material specific to their year.

EfM: Classic involves four years, taken one year at a time: Old Testament, New Testament, Christian History, and Christian Spirituality and Ethics.

EfM: Wide Angle is an overview of the spiritual journey that introduces participants to EfM: Classic by touching on the Old Testament, New Testament, Christian history, spirituality, and ethics within one year.

Nine weeks are common lessons, which include two weeks marking the beginning and end of the year, four Spiritual Sojourner Essays, and three weeks of Community Gathering sessions. Want to learn more? Explore EfM through their website by clicking [here](#). Or reach out to The Rev. Dorothee R. Caulfield the facilitator at drcsd57@gmail.com.



Restorative Justice Westchester
Less Judgement, More Understanding

MLK Institute
Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence



Join the 2026 Cohort!

For those interested in becoming a facilitator of school, workplace, court and/or community circles.



July 22-24 & July 27-28, 2026
5 Full Days | 9 AM – 5 PM



Location: Westchester Library System (Conference Room)
570 Taxter Road, Suite 400
Elmsford, NY 10523



Format: In-Person



Accessibility: Accessible via 87, 13, and 1 Bee-Line Bus routes



COST: \$600
Sliding scale based on your ability to pay. Don't let money be an obstacle to your participation.



YOUNG INDIVIDUALS, BILINGUAL CANDIDATES, AND THOSE WITH A HISTORY OF COURT INVOLVEMENT ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!



APPLY NOW!

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/RJWCKT26](https://tinyurl.com/RJWCKT26)

TOPICS COVERED:

- How Restorative Justice can strengthen/repair relationships among individuals and communities
- History, theory, and philosophical basis of Restorative Justice
- Differences between restorative and retributive justice
- Anti-racism: How racism dehumanizes us all
- Circle-keeping
- Putting RJ theory into practice

For additional info, please contact:
914-473-3774 or jillberg@igc.org

A REQUEST FROM THE BETHANY ARTS COMMUNITY

Hello Faces of Ossining participants!

Bethany is hosting a Community Survey, bigger than they've ever done. The Survey is open until the end of July and they would love for you to participate — it takes about 5 minutes to complete. Questions in the Survey ask you to tell them about your experience of BAC and what you want to see from them in years to come. Your ideas and your feedback are very valuable to them as they aim to build programming that is relevant and responsive to the real needs and interests of our community.

[Click here](#) for the survey.

They would also really love any help you can offer to pass the survey along to friends, neighbors, and anyone you think might like to share their thoughts and help them plan Bethany's future. They thank you for your community over the past years—here's to much more in years to come!



JULY EVENTS

- 11 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 23 Tea and Talk (4:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 25 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)

AUGUST EVENTS

- 8 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 22 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 29 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, Trinity Campus Upper Room)
- 30 Fifth Sunday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

John Crawford	1	John Farrell, Sr.	20
William R. Losee	1	Edward Aryee	21
Donna Chadeayne Harvey	2	Peter Flihan	21
John Deuel	4	Kathryn Howard	21
Brian William Plank	4	Catherine Kamp	21
Bill Cruse	10	Peter Madison	22
Joan DiLoreto	11	Karen Kamp	23
John Houghtaling	12	The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Mayer	23
Robert Belcher	13	Alexa Shaw	24
Joe Scappaticci	16	Dennis Parker	26
Roland Rose	17	Stephanie Kip	30

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

The Rev. Hal Roark and Lori Kennedy	1	Dhalya and Adam Wagner	17
Sam and Barbara Bethea	2	Jan and Tom Greene	20
Jean Marie Angelo and Ann Post	13		

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Emma Flihan	1	Marian Schneckner	13
Laura Vookles	1	Gene Micklas	14
Lisa Gibson	2	Luis Barceló	15
John Muth	3	Barbara Hunt	17
Juliet Blair	3	Julia DeOliveira-Scappaticci	18
Rebecca Ray Barceló	6	Alexander Frederick Kip	20
Richard Chesnut	6	Trevor Pasieka	20
Sara DeOliveira-Scappaticci	7	Lori Kennedy	22
Alison Mahlau	10	Barbara Mahlau	23
Jack Kouloheris	11	Victoria Pollack	25
Jim Blair	12	Kari Ann DiLoreto	28
Sally Evans	13	Maribeth Barnes Osgood	29
Tina Farrell	13	Barbara Bethea	30
Susan Monroe	13	James Michael Liberti	30
Barbara Olivier	13	John William Liberti	30

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Kara (Pauline) and Neil Prahue	4	Beth and Grant Pollack	22
Karen and Robert Pauline	14	Jack Kouloheris and Ken Shepard	23



CLERGY

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

VESTRY

Cecilia Quintero, Warden Richard Shaw, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Ann Barringer Spaeth
Alison Ford
Graham Gulian

Milton Kerr
Maribeth Osgood

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.