

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 4 Number 8

September 2024

Hi everyone,

Since we are through Labor Day, we now start the next church “program year” – the time that runs from now to the end of June 2025. Good news: we have a LOT of exciting events planned this 2024-2025 program year! It’s going to be GREAT!

To start, we have our annual “Welcome Back” picnic at Grace’s St. Paul’s campus this Sunday, September 8th, following 10:30 am worship. Join us! Bring a friend, bring family, bring neighbors, bring stray cats... all are welcome! It’s a great time to hang out together and catch up. I hope you’ve had a restful and rejuvenating summer. I look forward to hearing about it.

Note in this newsletter that we are going to have a very special Bible Study opportunity starting this September focusing on scripture, Rembrandt, and *Visio Divina*. Read about it below and attend (it’s held on Zoom) if you can. All are welcome from inside and outside the parish. It’s free and should be very informative and stimulating. I’m looking forward to it!

Also note that this month we have Grace’s special, 5th Sunday, Half-Year report on Sunday, September 29th at Grace’s St. Paul’s campus after our 10:30 AM worship service. This is the bi-annual meeting we created to occur on the Fall 5th Sunday that is approximately six months after Grace’s Annual Meeting in February. Remember that at our February Grace Annual Meeting, we articulated many strategic goals that we wanted to accomplish this year. Well, how are we doing? Come to the September 29th meeting to find out! More on this important meeting as the date draws closer.

We have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate together. Enjoy the lingering summer weather, and the beautiful Fall weather to follow, and avail yourself of the terrific worship, service, and social activities we have at Grace this 2024-2025 program year. It’s going to be a GREAT and bountiful year together.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.


With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+

P.S. Don’t ever hesitate to contact me if I can ever assist you in any way! Call or email. I always look forward to hearing from you! Blessings to you and yours!



**Ann Post in Partnership
with St Paul's Riverside Presents**

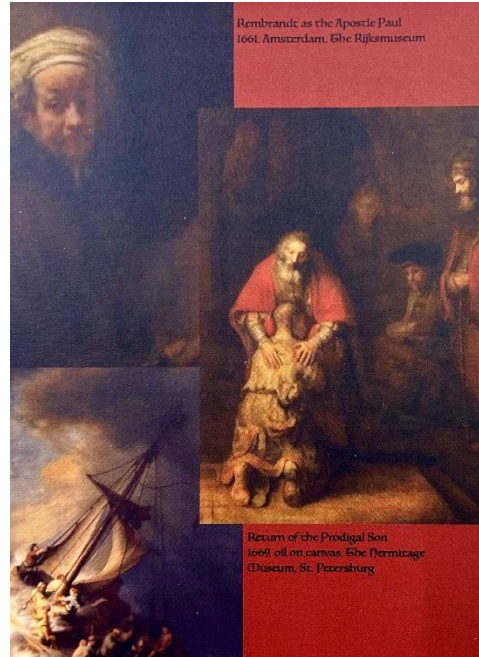


SCAN ME

**Reading the Bible through
Rembrandt's Eyes**

**Tuesday @ 7pm
Sept.24-Oct.29
on Zoom**

stpaulsriverside.org/reading-the-bible/



DEACON'S CORNER

SIGN UP FOR A FREE BIBLE STUDY EVENT

My spouse, Ann Post, is the Christian Education Director at St. Paul's Riverside, and a frequent visitor to Grace Ossining. She is also a former co-worker of Father Hal's. Starting September 24, she will be conducting a special, six-week Bible Study that explores "reading the Bible through Rembrandt's eyes." The Dutch Master Rembrandt has a significant body of work that includes Biblical figures and scenes. Praying with these images, and reading the scriptural passages that inspired them, is a powerful experience. I have participated in past Bible studies that she has led that use *Visio Divina* and can attest that praying in this way opens new vistas.

Ann is currently at work on her Doctor of Ministry degree through the Toronto School of Theology and has done an in depth study of his work. This important Bible study is part of her academic program. Please sign up (there's no charge) by using the QR code, or by visiting <http://stpaulsriverside.org/reading-the-bible/>.

Peace,

Deacon Jean Marie



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

September 1	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 17
September 4	7:00 PM	Evening Grace Meditative Service (St. Paul's Campus)	
September 8	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 18
September 15	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 19
September 18	7:00 PM	Evening Grace Meditative Service (St. Paul's Campus)	
September 22	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 20
September 29	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 21

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 are now meeting on the 1st and 3rd **Wednesday** of each month so that choir members and others who could not join us on Thursday will be able to attend. 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.



IS YOUR PERSONAL DATA AT RISK?

Simply stated, YES!

In recent years, there's been a surge in data breaches and most recently National Public Data confirmed an estimated 2.9 billion records, including names, addresses, and Social Security numbers may be affected. Think about this, the current US population is less than 350 million. And in the past 2 years, Grace has sent several notifications parish-wide warning to be careful regarding text and email scams which many of us have received.

What should you do?

You should be operating on the assumption that most of our personal data is at risk and on the Dark Web.

Here are tips to protect yourself:

Do NOT share your personal information (birthdate, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, bank accounts, driver's license, etc.)

Use strong passwords or invest in a password manager. Do NOT use the same password for more than one account. Do NOT use significant dates, nicknames, family names, etc. If you don't use a password manager, change your password at least annually and quarterly is better

Use 2 Factor Authentication or an Authentication app to provide another level of online security.

Do NOT assume emails, though they look genuine or are sent from someone you know, are safe. Move your mouse over the Sender and check if the email is legitimate and not a phishing expedition. When in doubt, make a call to the sender or institution to confirm. Most if not all email providers have mechanisms to block these emails. Make time to learn how.

Check your credit report for inaccuracies, then...Freeze your credit with all 3 credit companies. Just remember your credit is frozen as you will need to unfreeze it before making any large purchases where your credit will be checked (car, large appliances, etc.)

Several websites claim they can check the status of your personal information. Not all of them are legitimate. Do NOT share your Social Security number or any other critical identifying information if prompted. There are 2 websites deemed safe:

<https://npd.pentester.com/> requires first name, last name, state, and birth year

[NPDBreach.com](https://npdbreach.com) requires full name and either zip code, Social Security, or phone number

Do NOT use public, unsecured websites. Look at the website address and make sure there is an "S" after http....https://

When traveling, especially in public areas (airports), do not plug directly into a USB port. Use a battery charger to be safe.

Do NOT answer your phone if you do not know the caller. Let them leave a message. AND if you do speak to someone you do not know, avoid saying the word "YES"! With Artificial Intelligence (AI), your voice can be recorded and duplicated and scammers can open credit accounts.

Please be mindful. These are only a few tips to protect yourself when using your personal electronic devices.

References:

NYTimes' Wirecutter: <https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-password-managers/>

USA Today: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2024/08/25/check-social-security-number-data-breach/74944395007/>

AARP: A good source for members. There are updates given in the app, most recently in April 2024

Questions?

Darryl Moy

Darryl.Moy@gmail.com

(914) 826-1755 (mobile)



WARDEN'S REPORT

GRACE did and experienced some amazing things this summer!

- Manuel's Painting & Flooring Crew did an amazing job in the Parish Hall, the kitchen, hallway, and meeting rooms. They also painted the first floor of the Lantern Shop and Tina's office space. Amy Kitahata-Sporn of our Building Safety Team did a walk-through and found storage areas needed to be cleared out. Manny and Edwin have just finished the second part of their job, clearing our basement space and shed of all trash, old furniture, and vintage appliances.
- Alcoholics Anonymous thanked us for allowing them to meet in the St. Paul's campus Parish Hall. They appreciated our accommodating them for the many years they were able to meet.
- We were most grateful that our cleaned and updated space and new technology were ready for the significant turnout for Elaine Blair's beautiful memorial service. The beautiful bright sunny summer day was a blessing in celebrating this treasured woman's life.
- Your Wardens and Fr. Hal are currently planning the reports and data for Grace's Semi-Annual Meeting where we will share our financial reports and the current status of our projects for 2024. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 29th after service. Lunch will be provided.

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



WARDEN'S CONFERENCE 2024

All hands were on deck at Grace mid-July to host the Diocesan Wardens at the St. Paul's campus during the painting/cleaning work which was in progress by our wonderful contractors Manny & Edwin. While the project was not yet finished, we were able to use the 2 new A/C units in the meeting rooms and use our new big screen TV & cart for the PowerPoint presentations. Kate and Steve took care of audio and recording the event. Jo, Melanie, Beth, and others did lots of behind-the-scenes preparation/cleanup for our approximately 100 guests. Fr. Hal came down from his vacation to participate and host the event.



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!

On September 8th, we will return from our summer vacations and lazy, hazy weekends! This means we celebrate with a Grace Picnic in the courtyard. We will provide burgers and dogs and are hoping that you will bring your signature picnic item (side dish/salad? dessert? beverage?) Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Email us at churchoffice@graceossining.org



ELAINE FRANCES BLAIR
1942 – 2024

Elaine Frances (Donovan) Blair died on August 11, 2024, after a long battle with Leukemia. She was born on September 21, 1942 in Fall River, MA, the second daughter of Attorney Leo J.F. Donovan and Margaret (Martin) Donovan, both late of Swansea, MA. She was married in 1965 to James Blair in a double wedding ceremony with her sister, Maureen and Lt. Michael Schneider. Jim and Elaine raised two children, Jonathan, born 1969, and Juliet, born in 1971. Jonathan died of cancer in 2023. Juliet lives with her husband David Klein and daughter Helena, in Yorktown Heights, NY.

Elaine was a graduate of Joseph Case High School in Swansea MA and the College of New Rochelle, where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Fine and Studio Arts. She was a gifted artist, graphic designer, and photographer, who, as a result of her master's studies, discovered what became a lifelong passion for sculpture. Her works were exhibited in a national juried art show and are held in several private collections. She leaves behind an impressive body of work in alabaster, her medium of choice.

Elaine was a gifted teacher, having taught art in the Maryland, San Diego and Rhode Island public schools before working in the banking sector at Chase Manhattan and People's Westchester Banks. She also served as Director of Health Education, Marketing, and Public Relations at the Ossining Open Door and as the Artist-In-Residence and public relations team member at the Ossining Public Library.

A fifty-five-year resident of Ossining, she was active in community affairs, having served on the boards of IFCA, the Ossining Children's Center, the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (now Grace Episcopal Church Ossining), and various other civic and arts organizations. She was also active in the United Ossining Party as well as various volunteer committees in Central Beach Rhode Island where she and her husband have a summer home. She was co-president of the Roosevelt School PTA and on the board of the Claremont School PTA. She was elected to the Ossining School Board in 1981, during which time the "Ossining Plan" that combined all students by grade was adopted. For her community and artistic achievements, she received the Ursula Laurus Citation from her alma mater in 2004.

Elaine was proud of her Irish and New England heritage. She loved to read, travel, swim and play tennis. She was an effective, purpose-driven, creative individual, and an exuberant and devoted grandparent to Helena. A kind and generous person with a ready laugh and an easy-going personality, Elaine had a wide circle of friends and relatives. She is survived by James Blair, her husband of 59 years, daughter Juliet (David Klein), granddaughter Helena, sister Maureen Schneider (Michael), sister-in-law, Deborah Kamins (Mitchell) and many cousins, nieces and nephews. She will be sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Ossining Children's Center, 32 State Street, Ossining, NY 10562 or www.ossiningchildrenscenter.org.



ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

"I often say that a vote is a kind of prayer for the world
we desire for ourselves and for our children."

—Senator and Reverend Raphael Warnock, Georgia

This year Election Day falls on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. We will be voting for the 47th President of the United States, as well as for United States Senator, Representative for the 17th Congressional District, and a variety of state, county, and local offices. On Election Day, the polls are open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. As per the New York State Board of Elections, early voting will also be available from October 26, 2024 - November 3, 2024. In order to vote, you must be a registered voter. <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/> is a voter database maintained by the NYS Board of Elections. It can help you determine your polling location, voter district information, and whether or not your voter status is "Active". If it is not "Active," you need to contact the Westchester County Board of Elections at **(914) 995-5700**.

If you are not already registered, you **MUST** submit a completed, signed, and dated Voter Registration Form that is received no later than **October 26th**. The form can be found online at <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/register-to-vote>. If you are unable to print the form or have difficulty completing the form, Ed Shultz will be available Sunday, September 22nd between noon-2:00 PM to assist with completing the form. In addition, you can contact the Westchester County Board of Elections by phone or visit in person during normal business hours. The Westchester Board of Elections is located at:

**25 Quarropas Street
White Plains, NY 10601**

They can assist you with any questions you may have, such as obtaining an absentee ballot if you will be away during the election or how to obtain an early mail ballot."

— Ed Shultz and the Social Concerns Committee

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW YORK BACKPACK DRIVE

The Episcopal Diocese of New York is teaming up with the Interfaith Center of New York and New York State to ensure that the needs of asylum-seeking students are met, particularly through parish-based programs. The diocese is aiming to raise over \$20,000 to provide 300 backpacks for asylum-seeking students in New York. Please help.

Visit <https://give.episcopalny.org/> to make your donation.



A quote to ponder from Carolyn Black:



"If you want to see the future of Christianity ... don't look at a church building. Go look in the mirror and look at your neighbor. God's message of love is sent into the world in human envelopes. If you want to see a great spiritual migration begin, then let it start right in your body. Let your life be a foothold of liberation."

-- Brian McLaren

Disturb us, O Lord

when we are too well-pleased with ourselves
when our dreams have come true because
we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord

when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life
when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord

to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of Him who pushed back
the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow.

Amen

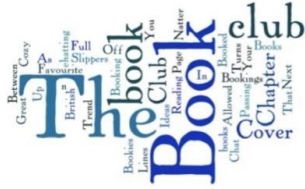


Grace's Grief Group

...is a confidential, safe, and welcoming grief support program that meets bi-monthly from 10:00-11:30AM on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in the St. Paul's Campus Family Room. Open to everyone in the Ossining community, who may be seeking support for the loss of a loved one. Our next dates are:

SEPTEMBER 14TH and **SEPTEMBER 28TH**

If you, or someone you know, would like more information, please contact Fr. Hal hal@graceossining.org or Cecilia Quintero cquintero1506@gmail.com



MORNINGS IN JENIN: A NOVEL, by Susan Abulhawa, did not disappoint our group when we met in June! Given our current news headlines from Israel/Palestine since the October 7th surprise attack by Hamas, this novel touched us all on a very emotional level. Folks came prepared with information and personal stories from their visits to that part of the Middle East. The conversation had its challenging moments, but we all walked away knowing that being informed and having respectful exchanges in a trusted group are a big part of what makes TBC such a treasured tradition during our 21 years together. Thanks

to everyone who joined us, brought something for our buffet and gave us much food for thought at our TBC table!

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. NPR's review had this packed sentiment about the timelessness of this story:

“Between Oprah's Book Club, President Obama's Summer Reading List and the Booker Prize Long List, *The Sweetness of Water* is having a moment that goes beyond topicality. There are several reasons for that: First, its question feels urgent and familiar, because politics now feels like war. Between the January insurrection, the threat of Texas secession, and the daily rhetoric of combat and revolution, the battles are ongoing, not just along party but also regional lines. ... In struggles over flags, monuments, textbooks, and university tenure, we're still fighting over how to frame this event in public memory, so those old wounds feel particularly fresh. Nathan Harris makes those extraordinary, still contested times comprehensible through an immersive, incredibly humane storytelling about the lives of ordinary people.

This will be our final book of the year. Here is the link to the full NPR review:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/04/1023943694/oprah-picked-it-so-did-obama-why-this-novel-is-the-summer-book>

Discussion date: Sunday, OCTOBER 20th

All Are Welcome at TBC!



Our Grace Building Safety Team is continuing to gather information for six areas of building safety and access:

- Life Safety, i.e., fire, egress, etc.
- Security for users and church office
- ADA accessibility
- Safety Procedures, i.e., fire, medical, building lockdown, etc.
- Safety Training, i.e., AED/Defibrillator & CPR, Narcan, Fire, Medical, Active Shooter, etc.
- Grant Research and Development.

If you would like to know more about what we are doing and or would like to help, contact Amy Kitahata-Sporn at: amykitspo@gmail.com or speak to one of our team members: Ann Barringer-Spaeth, Kelly Ishmael, Milton Kerr, Amy Kitahata-Sporn, Kate Pendzuk, and Steve Pendzuk.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 15th at Trinity from 12:00-1:30 PM.

Amy Kitahata-Sporn, Coordinator





The
Episcopal Diocese
of New York

The Threat of White Christian Nationalism: A Wake-Up Call to People of Faith

by

The Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward

***The 2024
Episcopal Diocese of New York
Hobart Lecture***

Thursday, September 12, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

With Q. & A. session facilitated by Bishop Heyd

- What is the threat of white Christian nationalism to our nation - and to Christianity in America?
- What factors are contributing to its strength and timeliness?
- How should Christians respond and how can we encourage one another to be bold in our faith and patriotism?

[Zoom Registration >](#)



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

INVITES YOU TO

**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024
(8:30AM – 5:00PM)**

For our **Fall Retreat** at
Cathedral House
The Cathedral of St John the Divine,
1047 Amsterdam Avenue,
New York, NY 10025

**This is an in-person event for all women of our Diocese.
Breakfast and lunch will be provided.**

**Registration information and fee will be
shared at a later date.**

**You may confirm your interest or plans to
attend with an email to ecw@dioceseny.org**



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 7 Hospitality Steering Committee (11:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 8 Welcome Back Picnic (after the service at the St. Paul's Campus)
- 14 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 21 Ossining Village Fair
- 25 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, location TBD)
- 28 Grace in Grief (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 28 Grace serves at Loaves and Fish [tentative] (4:00 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 29 Lunch and Report to the Parish (after the service at the St. Paul's Campus)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amy Kitahata-Sporn	1	Yahra Roman	20
Helen Kamp	3	Darryl Moy	24
Tyler Moy	5	Charles Baker	27
John Osgood	5	Brandon Moy	28
Kellie Ishmael	8	Marilyn Barnes	30
Ronald V. Lazaro	8	John Anton Nieto Cullen	30
Tamsen Hernández	10	Betty Ann Frank	30
Jack Davis	12	Amy Monroe	30
Miguel Hernández	14	Ciara Monroe	30
Asa G. Barnes, Jr.	20		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jennifer and Michael Bomwell	13	Cecilia Quintero and Dennis Parker	18
Mark and Susan Monroe	14	Roland and Barbara Rose	25
Terri and Michael Roman	16		



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.