

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 5 Number 8

September 2025

HAPPY LABOR DAY WEEKEND, EVERYONE!



I hope you are enjoying some last-minute summertime fun before we start the new program year with our Welcome Back Picnic on Sunday, September 14th, at our St. Paul's campus.

My summer was full of work and relaxation at our Walton house for three weeks in July, the diocesan College of Congregational Development Training for a week in Queens, and two Saturday weddings I did for friends and past parishioners. It was all rejuvenating. I hope your summertime was, too.

As many of you know, before I became a priest, I was very involved in the recovery of the Broadmoor neighborhood in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. You can learn more about that by clicking [here](#): As I've said before and recently preached about, I think this Broadmoor discernment and activity will be relevant for the discernment process we will do at Grace this year.

To get prepared to participate in Grace's September-February Discernment process, [click here](#) to download the *Congregation Handbook*. Please print it and read it. It has work pages for each of the events of our Discernment process, and includes any pre-work and things to read, pray, or think about. There are questions following the events to help you keep a personal record to contribute to the emerging picture. God has lots to say, and everyone has a specific part to contribute to the emerging picture of God's will and leading for the congregation as we ask the question: "What is God calling Grace to do and be now?"



If you haven't read it, borrow or buy a copy of *Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations* (Revised Edition) by Suzanne G. Farnham, Stephanie A. Hull, and R. Taylor McLean). It's available from [Amazon](#), [Church Publishing](#), [QuakerBooks](#), and [Barnes and Noble](#). (It is available as an e-book from both Amazon and Barnes and Noble.) Grace has also bought some copies for people to borrow and share. Contact Tina (tina@graceossining.org) to borrow a copy from the office. It's a quick read.

Finally, mark your calendars ASAP for Saturday, September 20th, from 10:00 to 3:00 at our St. Paul's campus for Grace's Community Discernment Retreat. At Retreat, the Rev. Canon Claire Woodley from the Diocese of Long Island (and one of the creators of this discernment program) will train us in this discernment model. It's an important meeting to attend, since it will explain all the details of the process. Plan on attending and make sure your Grace pals are attending, too. Lunch will be provided.

Continue to pray the Grace discernment prayer we created and have been invoking for months:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we take counsel for the renewal and mission of Grace Church. Teach us in all things to listen to the Holy Spirit and seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I'm rejuvenated and excited about the discernment work we are going to do together this year. It's going to be a great year together!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+

HELP FOR THE OSSINING FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is still facing tremendous demand. If you would like to donate to help this cause, the items pictured below are the most expensive to source from our suppliers in the smaller sizes we need for distribution to our client families: Rice, instant coffee, peanut butter, vegetable oil, and jelly. If you have questions, please contact Sue at m1roz@msn.com



DEACON'S MESSAGE

When our Social Action Committee discussed our next steps, we agreed that we do not want to take on another book discussion as a group at this time. We do want to lead initiatives and do ministry in our community and also be an Episcopal presence at local meetings, rallies, and vigils. We certainly will keep reading, though, and will make recommendations for each other and our Grace family.

Here is my first:

How We Learn to Be Brave by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde



Bishop Budde has been bishop of the Diocese of Washington, D.C., since 2011. Being the first woman bishop in the nation's capital was certainly news worthy. But Bishop Budde became nationally famous in 2020, when she expressed her outrage when President Trump and several other officials posed for a photo in front of St. John's Church in Washington, D.C., as a show of force to counter Black Lives Matter protestors. She pushed back on an Episcopal church being used as a prop. Some praised her, some condemned her.

This January she was in the news again — nationally and internationally — when she delivered a homily at the National Prayer Service in January as part of the presidential inaugural festivities. It is traditional for the incoming president and family to attend this service at the National Cathedral. This time Bishop Budde did something a bit unconventional. She spoke directly to President Donald Trump from the pulpit. She calmly but clearly called for him to show mercy, especially for LGBTQ people and for immigrants. "People are scared right now." Some conservative commentators called her a "raving lunatic" and a "hater." She received criticism and threats. The president demanded an apology, but she said she would not do that.

Many took notice. Almost immediately *How We Learn to be Brave*, which she wrote in 2020, became a national bestseller.

Before coming to Washington, Bishop Budde was rector of St. John's Church in Minneapolis, Minn. Her book was inspired by the killing of George Floyd and the re-ignition of the Black Lives Matter movement. The narrative covers much of her spiritual and professional journeys, and her many experiences of events and people who have inspired her and taught her discernment and courage.

Bishop Budde has been a mentor to our Bishop Matt Heyd. She has been chosen to be one of the speakers at our diocesan 2025 Hobart Lecture, to take place at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 PM. The lecture will also be streamed online. If you want to attend this free event, or watch the streamed broadcast, you can register for tickets by [clicking here](#).

I do plan to attend. Please let me know if you would like to, as well. I am also interested in your thoughts on her book, if you have read it. Please reach out and let me know what you think. Please consider sharing what is inspiring you.

— Deacon Jean Marie



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

September 7	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 18
September 14	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 19
September 21	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Trinity Campus)	Proper 20
September 28	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 21

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/>



WARDENS' REPORT
LEARNINGS, VISIONING, DISCUSSING & DISCERNING IN GRACE TOGETHER
Welcome Back!

We hope the Summer offered you some peaceful time to rest and reflect on life, your goals, and the future!

Time to study and consider Grace's next steps:

Is Grace adhering to its identity and mission? Is Grace where you think it should be? What are you being called to do for—and with—Grace? Yes, you are needed...

We have much to do together this year, so please review the books which Hal has mentioned to us during the year and in his *Grace Notes* message. Also, note the dates this September for our upcoming meetings.

As always your skills, time, and talents will be needed for:

- The Welcome Back picnic at our St. Paul's campus on Sunday, September 14th
- 2025 Grace Stewardship Campaign
- Marking our 4th Anniversary as Grace Episcopal Church
- Joining us at our Friendsgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 22nd
- Determining how can we best support our B&G Team, the Grief Group, Open Door, Loaves & Fish, and the Emergency Shelter during the final months of 2025?

As we look to continue making progress in 2025 and beyond, we at Grace need to be open, honest, direct, and focused in our work together to meet the challenges which lie ahead. And we need everyone to continue to be engaged and active participants in this great and dynamic experiment of our merged church.

Thank you for your trust, faith, and support in our work together in discerning our vision for Grace's future!

Wardens:	Graham Gulian (2026) ggulian@gmail.com Cecilia Quintero (2027) cquintero1506@gmail.com
Vestry Members:	Ann Barringer Spaeth (2027) abspaeth55@gmail.com Alison Ford (2028) alisonford@msn.com Milton Kerr (2027) mkdj46@yahoo.com Jo Ann McGrath (2026) mcgrathinator@gmail.com Maribeth Osgood (2028) mbosgood@outlook.com



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATE

Three of the projects that were in progress from the June B&G update have been completed.

Projects completed:

Trinity Parish Hall Floor: The floor is secure and stable. Many thanks to Tom Clemmens and Kate Pendzuk for managing to schedule the work around the Food Pantry's distributions so they never had to close!

Trinity Basement: The basement has been cleared, cleaned, and decontaminated after the blocked sewer line leak in February.

Trinity Sanctuary: The heating water line pipe which leaked into the basement has been repaired.

Projects in progress:

Parish Property Management (PPM) has been hired by the vestry to assess both campuses. Their initial visit was in late July and we hope their preliminary Facilities Conditions Assessment (FCA) report will be presented in the fall. It will detail major deficiencies and estimates for capital repairs and respective costs (over 5-10 years), providing critical information to assist with Grace's discernment process.

Trinity Narthex Roof: A contractor has been identified and the vestry is waiting to review the PPM (FCA) report before finalizing the approval to repair the Narthex roof.

Trinity Roof (Southeast section): BG has decided to await PPM's Assessment before making any recommendations on this roof repair.

There's always something...

We just don't always know about it. If you see something, say something...to Tina, Hal, or a B&G Committee or Vestry member so we can address it. Thanks in advance.

Darryl Moy
Chair

THE BAPTISM OF AMARA SYNCLAIRE OKYNE

On Sunday, July 6th, Fr. Hal took a break from his vacation to baptize Elfreda Okyne's granddaughter. Her parents are Stephen Okyne and Erica Reynolds and her godparents are Garrett and Meagan Clark. Btw, Amara means "grace" in Igbo and Synclaire is a combination of her aunt's first and middle names.



GRACE SERVES SUMMER SALADS AT LOAVES AND FISH



On August 30th, we served chicken pasta salad, corn and black bean salad, and arugula watermelon salad to 32 in-person guests and sent 16 meals home. We also had desserts from ShopRite.

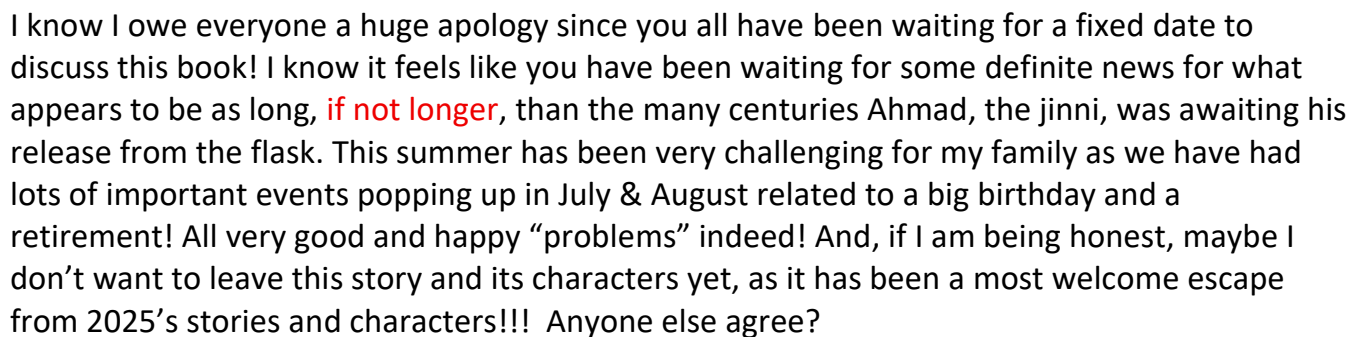
GRACE GRIEF GROUP

We will meet Saturday, September 13th and September 27th at 10 AM in the Family Room at the St. Paul's Campus of Grace Church, 40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, NY

THE GRIEF GROUP welcomes anyone in the community who may be seeking support because of the loss of a loved one, or any other life changing event.
There is no need to register.

ALL ARE WELCOME!





And so, after checking with Tam about Grace's September calendar and reviewing your email/text messages. I have landed on **Sunday, September 21st at our Trinity campus!** Hopefully, this will work for our members. Give some thought as to what we will want to eat/drink for this wonderful page turner. It was a real gem!

Thanks for your patience and consideration of this final date!

See you on the 21st!

Cecilia Quintero



The Episcopal Diocese of New York

The Right Reverend Matthew F. Heyd,
17th Bishop of New York

and

The Board of Trustees,
The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
cordially invite you to the

Installation and Institution of

The Very Reverend Winnie Varghese
as the 12th Dean

Installation and Institution of the Very Reverend Winnie Varghese

Saturday, September 27, 10:30 AM
Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine
1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025

Join us as we celebrate the installation of the 12th Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, the Very Reverend Winnie Varghese. The service will be offered in person and via livestream and will be followed by a reception.

Clergy are invited to vest in Cassock, Surplice, and Red Stole and process. Please help us in planning by submitting your RSVP to Caroline Riley at criley@stjohndivine.org, 212-316-7493



News & Needs

Open Arms Job Bulletin: Partnering for Purposeful Employment

One of the most important steps in refugee resettlement is finding employment—not just for financial independence, but for a renewed sense of purpose. At Open Arms for Refugees, we continue to meet with local employers who are eager to support this mission.

Recently, we visited the HR team at a newly revitalized conference center, whose goal is to become a premier destination in the tri-state area, offering both conference facilities as well as hotel accommodations to local visitors. They are currently hiring for entry-level positions in the kitchen, restaurant, housekeeping, and laundry—offering full-time, part-time, and on-call roles. They're open to hiring our refugee neighbors, especially in positions that match individual language skills and experience. Public-facing roles, like restaurant servers, require stronger English, while other positions are more flexible. Many staff and managers speak Spanish.

In-person meetings like this are invaluable. They help us understand employer needs and allow us to explain how Open Arms supports refugee success. We share this story to encourage you: if you know an employer who may benefit from the dedication and talents of our resettled neighbors, please connect them with us. Together, we can help build new lives through meaningful work.

For the latest updates, scan the QR code or visit:

facebook@OpenArmsForRefugees

Instagram: @Open.Arm.For.Refugees



PLEASE JOIN SUPPORT CONNECTION



For Breast & Ovarian Cancer

SUNDAY
10.5.25

*Walking Together
to Make Lives Better*

supportconnection.org

We will be walking in FDR Park in Yorktown Heights, NY and in communities nationwide!

HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS:

Kacey Morabito Grean, Let It Shine, Inc. • Chereese Jervis-Hill, Events to Remember

WALK AMBASSADORS:

Marcie Kaplan and Marge O'Brien

(914) 962.6402 | supportconnection.org

Raise Money for the Walk Online!
Get started now! Scan the QR Code.





SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 13 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)
- 14 Welcome Back Picnic (after the service, St. Paul's Campus)
- 20 Grace Community Discernment Retreat (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 21 The Book Club (*The Golem and the Jinni*) (Noon, Trinity Campus)
- 24 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 27 Grief Group meets (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus Family Room)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amy Kitahata-Sporn	1	Darryl Moy	24
Helen Kamp	3	Charles Baker	27
Tyler Moy	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
Asa G. Barnes, Jr.	20	Ciara Monroe	30
Yahra Roman	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

Graham Gulian, Warden Cecilia Quintero, Warden
Jo Ann McGrath, Clerk

Ann Barringer Spaeth Maribeth Osgood
Alison Ford 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.