

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 5 Number 10

November 2025



Happy November, everyone!

Sunday, we celebrated All Saints' Day and remembered those family members and friends who have made an invaluable difference in our life and faith. This Sunday at Grace's St. Paul's campus, we will celebrate Grace's 4th anniversary as a church. Happy Anniversary!

This Sunday is also Pledge Sunday, where we give thanks to God for our life and its goodness, including the promises of God and Christ to bring us — by the mercy, power, and loving will of God — to join our Saints one day in Paradise. We also thank God that now, through the Holy Spirit, God also promises to help us live ever greater lives of compassion, empowerment, and engagement with others not only for our health and well-being but also for the health and well-being of all. Thanks be to God! Join us for worship and for the food feast and fellowship afterwards. It is good and important to be together and to support each other in these trying times. Indeed, it is "meet and right so to do"! Come join in. It will be nourishing for us all on so many important levels.

Our Grace New Future Mission Discernment is going well. Lately, we have been looking at current data about Ossining and its environs. If you haven't seen this fascinating information, email Tina at tina@graceossining.org and she will email it back to you as an attachment. You can also call her at the Grace office at (914) 941-6627.

Additionally, last Sunday, many of us were trained to do interviews with strangers and to take photos of change, growth, and opportunity in Ossining. We have three weeks now to conduct interviews, to take photos, and to send them to graceossining@gmail.com. Whether or not you are able to participate in the interviews or photos, come to the "debrief" session on Sunday, November 23rd from noon to 2:00 PM at our St. Paul's campus to learn together what people discovered. Lunch will be provided. (If you don't have — or have misplaced — your Congregation Handbook for the Grace New Futures Discernment, [click here](#) to download one or contact Tina in the office and she will send you one in the mail.) It's never too late to join in the process! We are currently on pages 10-20

A significant number of people in the Grace New Futures program also want to explore in greater detail the origin story of St. Paul's and Trinity from the 19th century and come to a deeper and more complete understanding of that history. There is also a desire to explore how those dynamics are impacting us personally today as a parish community. To make all this happen well, we are exploring some local, facilitated engagement models, like restorative justice work, so we can have experts lead us in constructive and healing dialogue around these important issues. We are still in the research phase of finding the right program and

facilitators, but we will get back to you when we know more. Given the busy-ness of November and December, these important conversations will likely begin in January when our community life slows down a bit. We'll keep you updated, though, as we learn more.

Continue to pray for Grace. We are doing courageous and faithful work: exploring our origins and the impact in the present; looking at data about Ossining today that both affirms and challenges our assumptions; interviewing people in town to learn more about what they like best and least about Ossining and where their "spiritual home" is (Note: "nature" and "the river" are the most popular responses so far to that last question for the four of us that have already done some initial interviews. Fascinating!). And there is a lot more to this discernment process to come over the next six months. Remember that we are doing all these activities to discern over time a clear sense of God's call for Grace that answers the question, "What does God want Grace to do and be about *now*?" It's a roller-coaster of an adventure. Don't miss out on being a part!

Here's a prayer written by a member of the Prayer Choir. One of the subgroups of the Grace New Futures team, the prayer choir is comprised of Grace people constantly praying for and crafting prayers for Grace that speak to us in the present moment.

God, we know that with you, we are learning who we are and who we are called to be. Give us courageous hearts and minds to be searching and fearless as we discern your will. God, your immeasurable love and the hope of Jesus will heal this hurting world. Help us to be a place where the story of Jesus' saving grace is pronounced for all who are seeking hope. In his name, we pray. Amen.

Enjoy reading the rest of this November newsletter. You'll see there is a GO! (Grace Outing!) event coming at Bethany Arts Center this month...and much more. Know that in this month of Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God for each of you and for the huge, collective difference we make together. We are a fun, compassionate group and we make a difference in each other's lives and the lives of many in Ossining, and beyond. And we aren't done yet! Thank you for all you are and all you do; you are indeed a blessing to many.

"Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever." (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Amen!

With thanksgiving, love, and prayers,

Faithfully,

Fr. Hal+

DEACON'S MESSAGE

WE REMEMBER

These are challenging and perilous times for the transgender community. There is a level of derision, hate speech, and misunderstanding that I thought we had moved beyond. Wishful thinking on my part. Since January, the members of our transgender community have been targeted. We are, once again, living with a ban on serving in the military. Some have been denied their retirement benefits. Many young people who identify as transgender are being denied healthcare. We are seeing a record number of anti-trans laws being passed in many states.

I shared earlier this year that I have a strong connection to the transgender community. When I first joined The LOFT Community Center in White Plains in the late 1990s, I started to really understand gender expression. Annie and I have friends from every part of the LGBTQ+ community. The first Transgender Day of Remembrance happened in 1999, and it was intended to provide a funeral service for members of the community who had died, especially those who died from hate crimes and acts of violence. Annie, my spouse, and I have attended many TDOR services and we have helped organize several.

I shared earlier this year that the young adult whom I have always known as my niece has transitioned and come out to the family. My niece is now my nephew Leon. While we are completely supportive of Leon, we can't help being concerned. I was very relieved when Leon moved from Texas to Seattle, Washington, found a new job, and seems to have found a supportive new group of friends. I was thrilled that Leon reached out to family and let us reconnect and be part of his life.

So why do we need a Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. It makes a space for grief and to remember those we've lost, especially those who may have no one else to pray for them. TDOR is observed globally with vigils, marches, and other events. It has expanded to include a call to action, shedding light on the ongoing struggle for transgender rights and safety.

TDOR is officially held on November 20. This year, a group of us is doing an Evensong service on Sunday, November 9, at 4:00 PM., at Christ Church/San Marcos Tarrytown. Please join us.

— Deacon Jean Marie

EVENSONG for Transgender Day of Remembrance

**Sunday, November 9, 2025
5:00 p.m.**



**Hosted by
Christ Church/San Marcos,
43 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York**

**Sponsored by The Greater New York
Area Episcopal Trans Task Force**

**If you would like to sing with us please email
prideevensong@gmail.com**



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

November 2	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 26
November 9	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Proper 27
November 16	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Proper 28
November 23	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Christ the King
November 30	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Trinity Campus)	Advent 1

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_ucKEGA

Grace's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/graceossining/>



The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 26

Thursday, November 27

Friday, November 28

Saturday, November 29

WELCOME TO OUR DEACON POSTULANT!

Greetings to new friends and old at Grace.

My husband and I live in Peekskill, where we have been since 2001. I am with you as a Deacon Postulant, having been nominated at St. Philip's in the Highlands in 2022. My Bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, is in Music Performance, and I have worked as a vocalist, organist and choir director for many years.

I felt called to become a Deacon in 2016, and, with the support of family and congregation, sought a ministry in the community, and found my way to Hospital Chaplaincy, in which I have trained professionally and served as both volunteer and employee for the past seven years. Along my journey, I have served as an Acolyte, Lay Reader, Eucharistic Minister, and Visiting Eucharistic Minister, and enjoy presenting services with both music and liturgy. I look forward to serving you in this, my final year of formation.

Blessings,

Janine Thwaite



We provide *Forward Day by Day* to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life. Copies are available at both our campuses.



WARDENS' REPORT

LISTENING, VISIONING, DISCUSSING & DISCERNING IN GRACE TOGETHER

November Is Packed & Super Busy!

- * We celebrate Grace's 4th Anniversary and Stewardship Sunday on November 9th!
- * Our annual Friendsgiving Dinner will be served at 5:00 PM Saturday, November 22nd In the Parish Hall on our St. Paul's campus! (Anyone interested in a fun Trivia Challenge with their dessert?) See page 14 for more information.
- * As we prepare to give thanks for our blessings, please don't forget to support our local community organizations such as the Ossining Food Pantry, Loaves & Fish, Hope's Door, Open Door, and Gullotta House during this holiday season. Please think about whatever you can do to help when we host the Emergency Shelter guests at our Trinity campus the weeks of January 26, February 2, and February 9.
- * Our work in our New Futures Discernment steadily progresses! We are blessed to have folks who have joined a number of teams to support this effort, we have had a total of 7 meetings (number includes the TEAMS & Parish sessions) since our launch in early September. We have much to do and we promise that we will proceed with care, dignity and respect in this important and at times challenging work together! Please visit the New Futures Room (curated by Jo McGrath) in the space formerly known as the Attic Treasures Room. It has our living history timeline and all of our brainstorming bullet points from our meetings, plus extra copies of the Congregation Handbook. **Thanks, Jo!**

Vestry Year-End Tasks Include:

- * 2026 Budget Our Annual Budget is a work in progress which will be approved before our 2026 Annual Meeting.
- * Lease Agreements We have updated the language in our tenant's lease to reflect: 1) Should The Diocese of New York mandate any special training or new policies, we may need to amend the terms of our current lease with them; and 2) we have officially notified them of our current New Futures Discernment Process and we will advise them of any outcomes which may impact the future availability of our space and/or property. We will be able honor the timeline of their current lease with Grace Episcopal Church.
- * By-Laws We will be reviewing Grace's By-Laws, Article 2, Section 2 to determine if the number, qualifications and terms of the organized body of our leadership needs to be amended. Please contact Cecilia Quintero at cquintero1506@gmail.com if you have any questions or interest in joining our Vestry.
- * The 249th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held on Saturday, November 15th at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 147 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City. Our delegates are Beth Pollack, Cecilia Quintero, Fr. Hal, and Deacon Jean Marie.

As we look forward to continuing making progress in 2025 and beyond, Grace needs 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 Kate Pendzuk (2026) katependzuk@gmail.com

STAR OF HOPE SATURDAY

To make a star for Christmas to put on your front lawn please come to a fun event at St. Mark's in Mt. Kisco.. Come for an hour on Saturday November 8th starting at 10:00 AM.

[Sign up here](#) - Space is limited!



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
85 East Main Street Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

★ **Star of Hope Saturday**

November 8, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

I am the bright morning star (Rev. 22:16)



Make a **Star of Hope**
for your
congregation – or
your home – for this
coming Advent and
Christmas season.



GRACE GRIEF GROUP

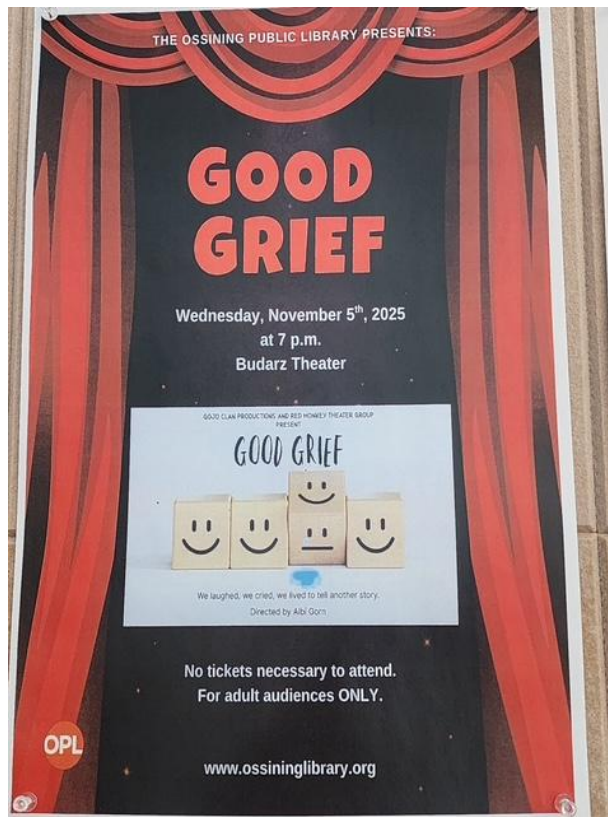
"NEVER BE A PRISONER OF YOUR PAST.
IT WAS JUST A LESSON, NOT A LIFE SENTENCE."

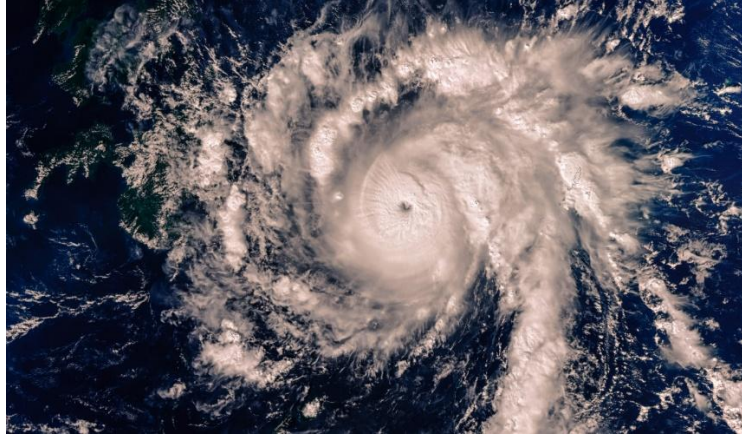
From Cecilia Quintero:

I saw this quote on Saturday night while I was reading my deceased friend's *My Life Stories* book. The next day I saw a video clip on CBS Sunday Morning which shared the story of musician/composer Adam Tandler's complicated grief over his estranged father. It was a beautiful story which truly embraces the wisdom of my opening quote. Hope you agree! [Click here](#) to watch it on YouTube (7minutes)

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. This month, we will meet Saturday, November 5th and 22nd at 10:00 AM in the Family Room at the St. Paul's Campus of Grace Church – 40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, NY.

ALL ARE WELCOME!





RESPONDING TO HURRICANE MELISSA

Episcopal Relief & Development is in close contact with their partners, including local dioceses and agencies in Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti, as Hurricane Melissa continues to cause widespread devastation throughout the Caribbean region. “Our local partners are assessing the needs of their community as the damage and long-term effects of this disaster become clearer,” said Eric Weaver, Director of Global Disaster Response & Resilience, Episcopal Relief & Development. “We stand by, ready to support them and the communities they serve as we learn more about the extent of damages and how best to target our response.” For more information and to donate, [click here](#).



The Ossining Food Pantry believes no one in our community should go hungry. That’s why, for over 30 years, it’s provided more than just basic groceries, supplying high-quality, nutritious foods including fresh fruits, vegetables, and proteins, because every family deserves more than just calories. They deserve nourishment, dignity, and hope.

Due to rising prices, cuts to government assistance, and ongoing economic strain, more families are turning to the Pantry for help than ever before. The Pantry helps nearly 5,000 Ossining residents each month. That’s a fifty-five percent increase from 2022. The holiday season only intensifies this need, as families try to hold on to traditions, gather around the table, and keep their children fed and comforted. Far too many of our neighbors are facing a different reality: empty cupboards, skipped meals, and the constant stress of not knowing where their next meal will come from.

The Pantry can’t meet this growing demand without you. It’s 100% volunteer-run. No salaries. Just neighbors helping neighbors. This means nearly every dollar you give goes directly to food. [Click here](#) for more information and to donate.

FACES OF OSSINING ART SHOW



**Consider joining us for the opening on *Thursday, November 6th*, at 6:30 PM
as one of our *Grace Outings*!**

Many Grace members have drawings of themselves in the show!

November 6-18, 2025

GALLERY HOURS (Starting November 6)

Monday – Friday, 10am-4pm

Late Night: Friday November 7, 10am-8pm

Select Saturdays: November 8, 10am-4pm

Select Sunday: November 9, 10am-4pm

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday November 6, 6:30-8:30pm

SUNDAY SUPPER: Sunday November 9, 5-7pm

Faces of Ossining is a unique art show at Bethany Arts Community celebrating the Ossining Community through original portraits of those who live and work here. The drawings, created by artist Jack Berkowitz, include store owners, seniors, children and their parents, teachers, community leaders, barbers, restaurant workers, politicians, librarians, artists, members of many different cultural communities, and more. The 50 original portraits depict the real people and rich culture of the very vibrant population of Ossining.

(You may remember that Jack visited us and took pictures of many of us!)

Join us from November 6-18 at Bethany Arts Community to reflect, share, and celebrate the people who call Ossining home and make Ossining great.

Thank you to the Ossining community members who participated in this project. This exhibit is possible because of you. Special thanks to Mirthu Meza, Jermain Smith, Ro Moran, Neighbors Link, and the Ossining Union Free School District.

Art For The River

An Art Auction Fundraiser

Benefitting Riverkeeper and
Ossining Arts Council

Friday
November 14
7:00-9:00pm

Ossining Riverworks
30 State Street
Ossining, NY



Ossining Arts Council



RIVERKEEPER



OSSINING
RIVERWORKS

Sponsors:



POSTALL
Shipping • Printing • Signs



\$40 in advance
\$50 at the door

Ossiningriverworks.com/events



**"We can reject everything else:
religion, ideology, all received wisdom.
But we cannot escape the necessity of
love and compassion. This, then, is my
true religion, my simple faith. In this
sense, there is no need for temple or
church, for mosque or synagogue, no
need for complicated philosophy,
doctrine, or dogma. Our own heart,
our own mind, is the temple. The
doctrine is compassion. Love for
others and respect for their rights and
dignity, no matter who or what they
are: ultimately these are all we need."**

~DALAI LAMA



Turkeys, stuffing, cornbread, casseroles, salad, cranberry sauce, bread, red/white wine, cookies, homemade pies, and other desserts can only mean one thing—

FRIENDSGIVING!!

**IT'S TIME TO GIVE THANKS TOGETHER AT OUR ST PAUL'S CAMPUS
FOR OUR MANY HEARTFELT BLESSINGS AT GRACE!**

WHEN? SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, from 5:00 PM -8:00 PM

WHY? TO GIVE THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILIES, OUR HISTORY, AND PRAY FOR OUR FUTURE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

HOW? JUST BRING YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING SIDE AND A GUEST, IF YOU WISH!

Dennis & Cecilia will be preparing one of our 2 turkeys, and our sign-up sheet includes the second one, as well as the side dishes mentioned above. **If you wish to join us, please let us know by emailing** Cecilia cquintero1506@gmail.com or Tina tina@graceossining.org by November 16th, if possible. Also, If you need a ride (or can offer to drive our guests), please let them know. Thanks!

INTERESTED IN LEARNING CHRISTIAN MEDITATION?

Email Fr. Hal at hal@graceossining.org and he will teach people Centering Prayer (<https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/>) or Christian Meditation (<https://wccm.org>), whatever you want to learn.

No previous experience required. Just interest.

The challenge of silent meditation is maintaining a daily and weekly practice. Mariandale's weekly group meditation practice is a game changer because people can do their daily Christian meditative prayer at home and then gather weekly at Mariandale, if one likes. It's very hard to get enough people from one parish to make weekly practice meaningful, but spreading out and including many local groups works best and that's the leadership Mariandale is now providing. Email Hal for more information if interested or [click here](#) for Mariandale's Program Calendar.

WEEKLY MEDITATION PRACTICE: MARIANDALE CHAPEL



A weekly gathering in person at Mariandale to explore various meditative practices to enhance our spiritual path. There will be a weekly meditation followed by a short discussion. The *Only Requirement*: a *Yearning for a Contemplative Community*.

Dates and Times:

Thursdays from 4:30 - 5:30 PM in the Chapel at Mariandale
from October 2 to December 11

Presenters: Fernando Camacho, MD and Maeve Eng-Wong

Fee: Free Will Offering (registration is encouraged, not required)

Come as you are, check-in at the front desk and join us in the Chapel.

THE OLD MILL SINGERS
PRESENTS



Holiday Magic
winter 2025

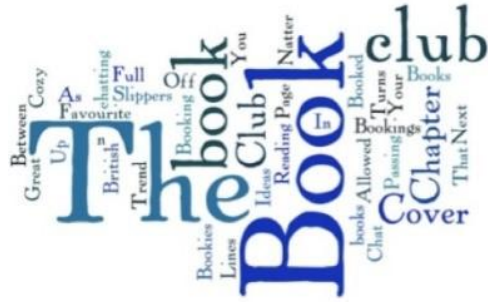
directed by Nell Macdonald

December 6th at 5pm
December 7th at 3pm

The Julie Harris Theater
Clear View School
480 Albany Post Road
Briarcliff Manor

Adults and Seniors, Pre-Sale Tickets: \$20
Adults and Seniors, Tickets at the Door: \$25
Tickets for Kids 12 and under: \$5

oldmillsingers.org

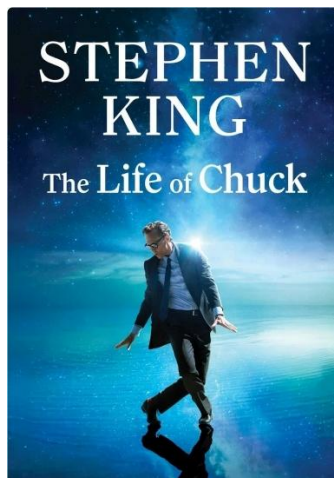


As we approach the holiday season and year end, 2025 has truly been a dark and heavy cloud for so many in the world and here at home. I am always grateful for those who gather at our TBC table to discuss our books, our thoughts, and our personal aspirations/experiences in life. TBC is a safe space which has evolved (thanks to Terri & Sherri's annual tradition which is AKA the TBC Toast) to bring our hearts and/or hurts to the table to heal, reflect, and share our wisdom to help us forge ahead in life. Our TBC family has been a sacred blessing at Grace!

Looking ahead to our 2026 list I am thinking we might want to consider picks that will teach us how to make the world a better place. Books about folks like Father Greg Boyle and his HomeBoy Industries, or about life lessons we should appreciate as in Mitch Albom's new novel *Twice* or Anthony Hopkins' new autobiography *We Did OK, Kid*. I am inviting you all to share your thoughts and suggestions for our future selections.

Our next book, *The Life of Chuck* (107pgs) by Stephen King, asks the reader to consider our impact on others, our loved ones and the universe during our lifetime. The film version was recently released this summer so there is a shortcut available for those who don't have reading time. I loved both! So check it out! We will meet sometime in January TBD.

Cecilia Quintero





NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Hospitality Steering Committee
- 2 All Saints' Day
- 2 New Futures (Neighborhood Exploration)
- 8 Grief Group meets
- 9 Grace Pledge & Anniversary Sunday
- 15 Diocesan Convention
- 19 Vestry Meeting
- 22 Grief Group meets
- 22 Friendsgiving Dinner
- 23 New Futures (Neighborhood Exploration Debrief)
- 30 Fifth Sunday

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Craig Peter Rowe	1	Dan Platt	21
Donna Boswell	2	Albert Cucurullo	22
Mark DiLoreto	5	Judy Travis	23
Kirsten Bowen	8	Dawn Mahlau	25
Gail Boswell Nixon	10	Francesca Houghtaling	26
Daniel Visconti	10	O'Neka Cole	27
Stephen Monroe	20	Patricia Gonsalves	30

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Graham and Ann Gulian	1
John and Francesca Houghtaling	3
Beverly and Warren Dyckman	23



CLERGY

The Rev. Hal Roark, Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Jean Marie Angelo, Deacon

Janine Thwaite, Deacon Postulant

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.