

Grace Notes

One New Episcopal Church From Two Historic Parishes

Volume 4 Number 11

December 2024



Ahhh Advent! I *LOVE* Advent – the colors, the stories, the special traditions, and, perhaps most of all, the explicit permission to slow down and be more introspective. Advent is primarily a season of preparation, not penitence, and thus the Church changed the colors decades ago from Lenten purple to Advent sky blue. Advent invites us to sweep out the manger of our own hearts so the Holy Spirit can be born fresh and new in us this season. Yes, even in the lowly, little old inn of an us. What does that mean for you this year?

There are many ways for us to enhance this interior Advent focus at Grace, and this newsletter will highlight some of them. This Saturday, for instance, at Grace’s St. Paul’s campus at 10:00 AM, we’ll celebrate our “quiet Advent” service for those grieving any kind of loss: loss of a spouse or friend, loss of health, loss of a job – indeed loss of anything. Come join us as we sing classic Christmas hymns that recognize grief and worry as normative parts of the Advent season.

See below for more details of other great Advent opportunities at Grace, including, of course, our Lesson & Carol’s service on December 22nd and our special Christmas eve services on Tuesday, December 24th at both St. Paul’s and Trinity.

Don’t forget there are other great Episcopal resources for Advent out there that you can access for free. One, for instance, is the Advent prayer program produced by Episcopal Relief and Development. “Episcopal Relief and Development?” you ask. “Isn’t that the disaster relief program for The Episcopal Church?” Yes, it is, and their work is grounded in a theological framework and so they produce very good theological reflections and prayers for Advent each year that you can sign up to receive for free.

To learn more about ERD's 2024 Advent prayer program, [click here](#):

Note, for example, this beautiful Advent poem prayer they have adapted from the work of Cameron Bellm:

We only have the broadest strokes of the story—
A census, a donkey, a long journey—
And I wonder if that's deliberate,
An invitation to fill in our own details
To flesh out the story of God becoming flesh.
This journey—it is our journey, too. This story—it is our story, too.

Every year that we take these steps,
We pass by the landmarks of years gone by.
The year we got the job, the year we lost it.
The year we held loved ones close, the year we lost them.
The footprints on the path from the hardest year are deep,
Our feet pressed mercilessly into the dust by the weight of all we carried.

In some years we have the strength to walk,
And in some years we need to ride the donkey.
Our hearts are heavy, our bodies are weak.
Lord, give us hope like Mary's, hope that something new will yet be born.

Hope isn't passive. Hope is active, and it has large wings. I hope this newsletter – and indeed all we do at Grace Church Ossining – gives you the wings to develop greater hope, faith, and love within yourself so you can bring those virtues, like the gifts of the Magi, to a world eager to receive them.

Happy Advent, y'all!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Hal+



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DEACON'S MESSAGE: SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVENT

BE PART OF A WORLDWIDE ADVENT CALENDAR

AdventWord
DECEMBER 1-25 **2024**

1	HUMILITY	14	PROCLAIM
2	ABOUND	15	REJOICE
3	REDEMPTION	16	GENTLENESS
4	SPROUT	17	TRUST
5	EARNESTLY	18	GATHER
6	FAITHFULNESS	19	HOME
7	SAFETY	20	LOVE
8	SPLENDOR	21	MERCY
9	REFINE	22	LIFTED
10	JOY	23	SHINE
11	PREPARE	24	COME
12	RIGHTEOUSNESS	25	FRUIT
13	SALVATION		

adventword.org

Each year, Forward Movement creates an online Advent calendar that features a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday Lectionary readings. I have been participating for years and have found it a very meaningful daily practice.

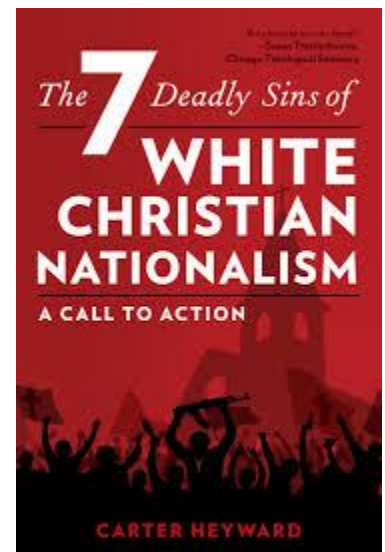
AdventWord inspires followers of Jesus with an accessible and creative daily prayer practice. During this holy, busy season, disciples are invited to find small moments of reflection to stay connected to their personal faith, to others, and to God. Email subscribers and social media followers will receive a daily meditation (in English and Spanish) and visual image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to

share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression. If you have a social media account, such as Facebook or Instagram, simply post a photo, a phrase, or comment that relates to the word. Be sure to tag "adventword" so that your post is searchable. It is also a great way to see all the creative and reflective ways others are responding to the word of the day. [Click here](https://adventword.org) to sign up.

Grace's Social Concerns Group is presenting a discussion of the first six chapters of Rev. Carter Heyward's book, *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism: A Call to Action*, after our December 15th service at our Trinity campus. Bishop Matthew Heyd invited Rev. Heyward to be a Hobart Lecturer for the Diocese of New York this past fall. She has been an activist and an advocate for social justice for many years. She was one of the Philadelphia 11, which is the first group of women ordained in the Episcopal Church. Her ideas, sadly, are more timely than ever.

In Peace,

Deacon Jean Marie





OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

December 1	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Advent 1
December 7	10:00 AM	Quieter Advent Service (St. Paul's Campus)	
December 8	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Advent 2
December 15	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Advent 3
December 22	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Advent 4
December 22	4:00 PM	Service of Lessons and Carols (Trinity Campus)	
December 29	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist (Trinity Campus)	Christmas 1

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_ucKEGA

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

**THE TREES ON EASTERN AVENUE HAVE BEEN TRIMMED!
NOW WE'LL SEE THE LIGHT!**



WARDEN'S REPORT

Grace Church Has Much To Be Thankful For This Year!

We give thanks for Grace Church's Third Anniversary and for our second year with Fr. Hal & Lori.

We completed our Stewardship Campaign and gratefully acknowledge its financial gains and also the bequeathed gifts from the Hampshire and Blair families, which will allow us to do important work at the St Paul's property.

We give Thanks to ALL who have generously given of their talent and time during their service on our various old and new ministries (B&G, Finance & Investments and those who lead/support our food ministries), admirably dealing with many challenges and to our Vestry who are pondering very weighty issues.

Rev. Hal's positive and fearless visioning for Grace's future in Ossining has resulted in the following groups leasing/using our space:

Casa de Liberacion y Retauracion, the Spanish church which is led by Pastor Manuel, uses our Family Room weekly and the Sanctuary as needed. Their members are happy to have found our location in which to worship and they have helped repair and clean some of the areas on the Hill which needed attention.

Thankfully, Loaves & Fish continues their important service to our community despite many serious hiccups in 2024, caused by the need to comply with health department requirements. Clearly this case required MANY helping hands! And more are needed!

We are proud of the growing list of community groups supported at Grace. They include (but are not limited to) Old Mill Singers, Hope's Door, the Ossining Food Pantry, Arts & Action, the Board of Elections, Living Resources, Ossining's Police Reform Advisory Committee, and a new tenant for the Lantern Shop space...these relationships remind us of what an asset our property is and of the added value we provide to organizations which serve this area!

And Just Like That... It's DECEMBER, Now Grace Church Prepares For ADVENT!

(We've heard from a reliable source that our Christmas wreaths will be delivered at the St. Paul's campus by **Tuesday, December 3rd!**)

Co-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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO GRACE!



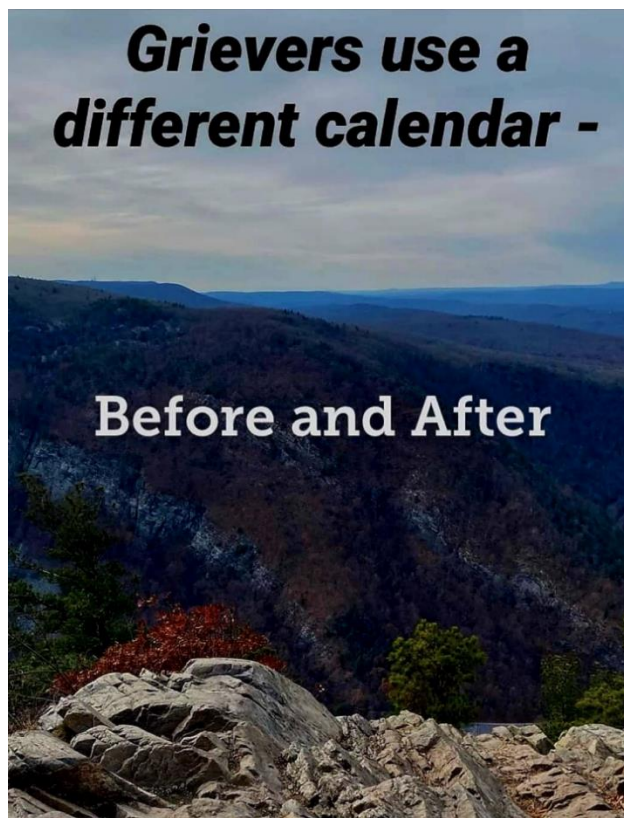
LOAVES AND FISH



On Saturday, November 2, we served 32 in-house meals and 11 take-out meals. Our menu was chicken à la king, served over rice, accompanied by assorted breads and desserts. I heard a lot of compliments about the entrée (maybe because I didn't cook this time).

Because we have the new dishwasher and a two-bay sink, Loaves and Fish has changed from serving on paper plates with plastic utensils to using our china and flatware. However, it appears we are short on forks, so any donations would be appreciated!

Alison Ford, Coordinator



GRACE GRIEF GROUP

Fr. Hal will be helping us honor our departed loved ones during a special
Quieter Advent Service on
Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 AM
St. Paul's Campus of Grace Church, 40 Ganung Drive

Our regular meetings are scheduled from
10:00 AM TO 11:30 AM on the 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS
DECEMBER 14TH AND DECEMBER 28TH
Family Room, St. Paul's Campus of Grace Church
40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, NY 10562
For more information, call Grace Church at 914 941-6627.

FRIENDSGIVING!!



Thanks for the pleasure of your company, the delicious food, your help,
work, and giggles! It was a fun event!

and

Congratulations to the Monroe's & Darryl Moy
our Trivia game winners!



HOPE'S DOOR HOLIDAY DRIVE

Just a reminder, Hope's Door is having their Holiday Drive. ([Click here](#) to view their web page.) Help by considering adopting a person, a family or families during the upcoming holidays. As mentioned by Terri Roman, you will be assigned a single, a family or families with one or more children. We ask that you provide 1 supermarket gift card per family and a gift for each family member. If you have questions, please email her at terrijroman@gmail.com.

Plan to bring in your gift cards and gifts by **December 12th**. Thank you in advance for brightening the lives of those who are in need.

A PRAYER FOR TRANSITION

by the Reverend Canon Kristi Philip

Ever-present God,
You call us on a journey to a place we do not know,
We are not where we started.
We have not reached our destination,
We are not sure where we are or who we are.
This is not a comfortable place,
Be among us, we pray.
Calm our fears, save us from discouragement,
And help us to stay on course.
Open our hearts to your guidance so that our journey to this
Unknown place continues as a journey of trust.

AMEN

“A time of struggle and disagreement is a time for the church to remember our deepest calling: to follow Jesus in the Way of Love. The Way of Love does not have to be meek and unassuming; it can call us to speak out to protect the vulnerable and work for justice.”

—Susan Brown Snook, Episcopal Bishop of San Diego

REPAIR

**Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes
Action on Inclusion and Race**

RESPONDING TO THE ELECTION

The results of the election of November 5, 2024 have sent shock waves around the world. Some people are jubilant—but many are distraught, angry, and afraid. As people of faith who are committed to racial justice and inclusion, we are grappling with many questions:

- What do the election results say about our political system, the social fabric of our nation, and the deepest values of the American people?
- What impacts will the changing political landscape have on the lives of people within our communities and beyond? How will vulnerable groups be affected—immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and women?
- How will REPAIR be called to respond to the political, social, and spiritual challenges that lie ahead? What is our role as faithful people in a divided society?

In times like these, it's more important than ever for us to gather in community to share our thoughts, feelings, and plans. Join us on the evening of **December 3 at the Church of St Barnabas in Irvington, NY** for an open, mutually respectful exchange of ideas and concerns. The event will also be available on Zoom.

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Church of St Barnabas, 15 North Broadway, Irvington NY

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yckc5p6p>



BREAKING SILENCE: CHANGING THE CULTURE OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault remains a deeply entrenched issue, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized communities. Preventing and addressing harm is compounded by societal norms that silence victims, uphold rape myths, and perpetuate a culture of impunity. In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Episcopal Diocese of New York Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is pleased to present "Breaking Silence: Changing the Culture of Rape and Sexual Assault." The Rev. Dr. Danielle Tumminio Hansen will lead a conversation with philosopher and author Dr. Linda Martín Alcoff, activist Ms. Amanda Clelland, and author and activist Mr. Ted Bunch to address the pervasive issues surrounding rape and sexual violence and how we can foster cultural and systemic change to create a safer, more equitable society.

The webinar will help to dismantle these narratives by examining the intersections of power, gender, and systemic injustice that fuel this culture. Panelists will explore how faith communities, secular institutions, and cultural norms have contributed to this silence and what steps can be taken to foster more supportive and empowering environments for survivors to heal and for future harm to be prevented. They will also address current news stories about rape and sexual assault.

December 5, 2024

7:00 PM

[Click here](#) to register

THE OLD MILL SINGERS
PRESENT

HOLIDAY THRILLS & CHILLS

CONCERT PERFORMANCES:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 7PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 3PM

THE JULIE HARRIS THEATER
CLEAR VIEW SCHOOL
480 ALBANY POST ROAD
BRIARCLIFF MANOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT
WWW.OLDMILLSINGERS.ORG

TICKETS CAN BE
PURCHASED AT THE
DOOR OR FROM A
MEMBER OF THE
CHORUS:

\$20 ADULTS

\$15 SENIORS

\$5 KIDS 12 AND UNDER



Christmas Caroling!

in Ossining and Briarcliff Manor



Sunday, December 15

Meet at All Saints, Briarcliff Manor
after coffee hour (12pm, Bring a Bag Lunch)

Singing at The Club at Briarcliff Manor, Atria,
and town squares.

Fun for all ages!

No singing experience required!
Songbooks and jingle bells provided!


The best way to spread Christmas
cheer is singing loud for all to hear!



*A Festival of Nine
Lessons & Carols*

Featuring the combined choirs of
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Briarcliff Manor
&
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Ossining

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 4PM
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TRINITY CAMPUS
7 SOUTH HIGHLAND AVENUE
OSSINING, NY 10562



All are welcome! Free admission.
Holiday reception to follow in Parish Hall.

For more info: (914) 941-6627
churchoffice@graceossining.org



DECEMBER EVENTS

- 7 Quieter Advent Service (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 7 Lessons and Carols Rehearsal (10:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 7 Hospitality Steering Committee (Noon, St. Paul's Campus)
- 12 Finance Committee Budget Review
- 14 Lessons and Carols Rehearsal (10:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 14 Grief Group at Grace (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 14 Greening of Trinity Campus Sanctuary (Noon, Trinity Campus)
- 18 Vestry Meeting (7:00 PM, location TBD)
- 20 Open Door Toy Distribution for Their Clients (all day, St. Paul's Campus)
- 21 Lessons and Carols Rehearsal (10:00 AM, Trinity Campus)
- 21 Greening of St. Paul's Campus Sanctuary (Noon, St. Paul's Campus)
- 22 Service of Lessons and Carols (4:00 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 24 Christmas Eve Family Service (5:00 PM, St. Paul's Campus)
- 24 First Mass of Christmas (7:30 PM, Trinity Campus)
- 28 Grief Group at Grace (10:00 AM, St. Paul's Campus)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diahann C. Malcolm	1	John Engle	18
Zoe Grace Parker	3	Janet Robertson	20
Alexander Sergey Mahlau	10	Carissa Paige Wagner	20
Christopher D. Boswell	11	Sue Bayliss	23
Kathryn Brocchi	11	Stephen Okyne	24
Elfreda Okyne	12	Lisa Marie Liberti	25
Joan Holsten	13	Ann Barringer Spaeth	25
Karen Pasioka	14	Janet L. Hughes	27
Jan Greene	17	JoAnn McGrath	28

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Christine and John Schuler	2
Carolyn Black and Arthur Hightower	28



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.