

# Grace Notes

*Reporting from the Campuses of St. Paul's on the Hill and Trinity*

Volume 1 Number 3

December 2021



*"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."  
(John 3:8)*

The Greek word translated as "wind" in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is the same as the word for "spirit" - just as is the case in the Hebrew language. Older translations used "spirit" rather than "wind" in this passage; but the newer version captures the freedom with which the Spirit acts in a lovely way. Looking back over a life, whether of a person, a parish, or a Diocese, it is rarely the case that the course of that life could have been charted in advance; it is also often the case that a clear path can be discerned in retrospect. The Spirit does indeed blow where it chooses, but there is pattern and purpose in those choices.

As your Wardens and clergy walked the long Cathedral aisle and approached the bishop to be formally received as a new parish on November 13<sup>th</sup>, I had vivid memories of my ordination in that same great space nearly twenty-five years ago. I remembered, too, my many annual visits to the Cathedral as a young Methodist minister with my youth groups, and how, as each year passed, I was more and more clear that my true home was the Episcopal Church. Here now, on that day, in that space, I felt the trajectory of my own life coming to a moment of completion, a sense that this is where the Spirit had been leading me even back when I lay awake in my sleeping bag in the Cathedral undercroft as my youth group kids exchanged messages by flashlight.

Following us up the aisle at Convention was the other congregation being received as a new parish--the Haitian Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan. I had learned earlier that morning of the longstanding and deep ties our St. Paul's campus family had with a parish in Ti Fond Canges, Haiti. So there was a bridge and a shared history between Grace and Good Samaritan: again, trajectories defined over decades, led by the seemingly freewheeling but always purposeful Spirit. A friend of mine likes to say of the Christian life, "there are no coincidences, only confluences." Life in the Church is full of these wonderful confluences.

Since Convention, I have had a profound sense of the coming to fruition of the great confluence we have been sharing in together: the birth of Grace Episcopal Church, Ossining! It struck me at our Stewardship Comfort Food Potluck the day after Convention that we were observing a birthday - our first Sunday as a new church! Our TableTop event had a similar feeling of profound unity, two families seamlessly sewn together and working in love to go forward as one. We belong to God, as we always have; and now, we belong to one another in a new and wonderful way.

There is so much hope, so much promise, so much potential. Pray with all your hearts for our Search process, as we seek a leader to take us into our future. And pray in faith that the Spirit's surprises are real, and are always good ones, in the end.

Faithfully yours,

Charlie+

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## DEACON BEACON

Is it really December already? Wow! Where has the time gone?

I want to reflect for a few minutes on the joy of having Lainie Murrell, postulant to the diaconate, with us this year. It has been my personal joy to have her with us and more than that, I've had the thrill of seeing each of you engaging with her.

She brings her own gifts to the ministry that, God willing, she will be ordained into in May of 2023. While my gifts include stand-up routines, Lainie is quieter, but excels with bible study. That's where you could get to see her shine. This month she will be leading the service of Morning Prayer on the feast of St. Stephen and then she'll be preaching on January 2nd. But there's more to her than meets the eye. And as a postulant in training, it is our duty to support and encourage her to grow into her gifts more and more!

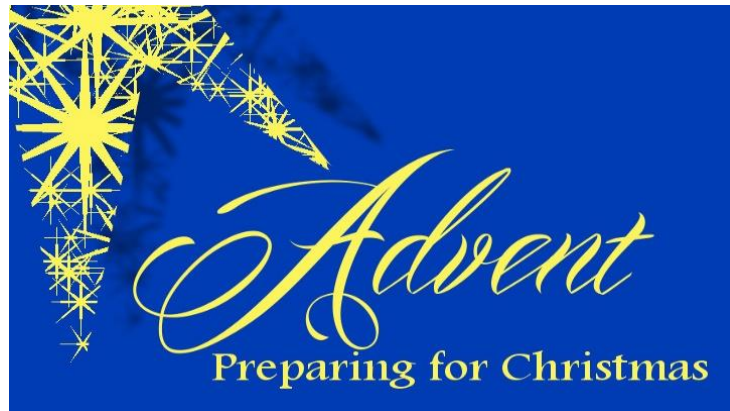
As a deacon, she will be called on to model Christ as the servant, so she is looking to be involved with our Social Justice Mission Committee. I would like to invite other newcomers to join this vital ministry of Grace Church. This is where we will show to the community who we are and what we care about! Please come to our next SJMC meeting on Wednesday, December 8th at 7:30 PM. Directly after our Evening Prayers! Everyone's input is needed as we shape our ministry and our postulant!!

Bless you all and see you in church,

Deacon Dorothee

[deaconfee@gmail.com](mailto:deaconfee@gmail.com)

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### OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

December 5	10:30 AM	Communion at Trinity Campus (Rite I)	Advent 2
December 12	10:30 AM	Visitation of Bishop Dietsche and Confirmation St. Paul's Campus	Advent 3
December 19	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer at Trinity Campus (Rite I)	Advent 4
December 24	5:00 PM	Family Service and Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)	Christmas Eve
	11:00 PM	First Mass of Christmas (Trinity Campus)	
December 25	10:30 AM	Communion at St. Paul's Campus	Christmas Day
December 26	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer at St. Paul's Campus (Rite II)	Christmas 1

All Sunday services will be live-streamed to the Facebook page of the host campus and to our joint YouTube channel. And you can also find them there after the service is over. The links are:

St. Paul's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsossining/>

Trinity's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/trinityossining>

YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z\\_ucCKEGA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z_ucCKEGA)

On Monday, Friday, and Saturday, we pray the service of Compline on our Facebook pages and our YouTube channel. Our leaders are Fr. Mayer, Carolyn Black, and Graham Gulian. Thank you all!

On Wednesdays, Deacon Dorothee leads a Zoom service of Evening Prayers at 7:00 PM. The Zoom link is sent at 5:00 that day.



## GRACE EXTENDING GRACE TO AFGHANS



I wanted to reach out to tell you about a project I am working on, which I am calling “Grace Extending Grace.”

It felt right that as we’ve formed this new community in Grace, we share our good fortune outward to help others in need. I began working with a consortium of Interfaith non-profit agencies to provide winter coats and boots for displaced families from Afghanistan, currently housed at a US Army base in New Jersey. They have been there since

August and many are unprepared for a typical northeast winter. The group I had been meeting with are primarily in NYC and their focus has been on gathering gently used coats to be brought to the base. The number of folks housed there is staggering and there are other NGOs working on the same thing. I’ve seen the wish lists and the numbers that are needed. Whatever our Grace community can provide will be a kindness indeed.

Because I worked in the garment center for many years, I know the power of wholesale shopping. I have sourced winter coats and boots as well as warm gloves and hats which will be brought to the base and distributed to the families. Here is where you come in: Using the wholesale companies I have contacted; I can get cases of:

- 12 pairs of boots for \$120-\$160
- 12 to a case winter coats for women, men, and children at \$200-\$250 per case
- 60 sets of wool blend socks, knit hats, and fleece gloves for \$250.

You get the idea. More bang for the buck and more folks helped. I have already ordered about 108 coats and 4 dozen boots. I hope to do more if possible. I’d like to invite you to help in this effort in any way if you can give at this time. For about \$50 a person, we can get a coat, boots, socks, and hat.

I am using the St. Paul’s campus to receive the goods for later sorting and organizing and using the St. Paul’s account for the donations for expediency. If you would like to contribute, you can write a check to St. Paul’s on the Hill (please indicate in the memo line it is for the Afghan Winter Drive). You can also contact me if you would like to use Venmo or Zelle. My email is: [m1roz@msn.com](mailto:m1roz@msn.com). This has come together quickly and time is tight – **I need to know your intentions by Wednesday, Dec. 8** (or sooner) so I can place the order. And I have also set up an Amazon Registry page if you would prefer going there:

[https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/2ET39RVIXRQSO/guest-view?ref=cm\\_sw\\_fb\\_r\\_gr\\_un\\_2NAVHPJxzKikL&fbclid=IwAR2zuSNqPVsMHwmsfy\\_TiYGUTH1VU6B6EFMj6TDOLPnj7tsfw17JwgXx4xw](https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/2ET39RVIXRQSO/guest-view?ref=cm_sw_fb_r_gr_un_2NAVHPJxzKikL&fbclid=IwAR2zuSNqPVsMHwmsfy_TiYGUTH1VU6B6EFMj6TDOLPnj7tsfw17JwgXx4xw)

Thanks for your time and Happy Holidays!

Sue Monroe, Warden, Grace Church Ossining



## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The search committee continues to meet weekly working diligently to address the tasks that must be accomplished in order to call a new priest for Grace Episcopal Church. We have reviewed details about decision making, job description, and compensation, and the thoughtful input that we have received so far from parishioners. One TableTop discussion has been conducted at the St. Paul's on the Hill Campus and a second is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th following the service at the Trinity Campus.

The Rev. Canon Nora Smith (Office of Transition Ministry) from the Diocese of New York attended our latest meeting to provide specific details and answer our questions about the search process. Our first task, beginning this week, is to produce a creative yet comprehensive Church Profile approved by the vestry and published on the websites of Grace Ossining, the NY Diocese, and the National church. Candidates will then submit applications for review by the committee. Following application review, a number of candidates will be Zoom interviewed and perhaps visit Ossining. The committee will identify at most two candidates to be sent to the vestry for review. A more intense interview process will select a priest to call.

The committee greatly appreciates your input and continued support. Please feel free to continue to communicate personally with any of us via email, phone, or direct conversation as often as you like.

### Grace Ossining Search Committee

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Ed Shultz [eshultz5@gmail.com](mailto:eshultz5@gmail.com)



## A BEAUTIFUL STORY - ALL OF US HAVE THE POWER TO BE THE LIGHT

By Elizabeth Gilbert, sent to us by Carolyn Black's friend, Sue Bayliss

Some years ago, I was stuck on a crosstown bus in New York City during rush hour. Traffic was barely moving. The bus was filled with cold, tired people who were deeply irritated with one another, with the world itself. Two men barked at each other about a shove that might or might not have been intentional. A pregnant woman got on and nobody offered her a seat. Rage was in the air; no mercy would be found here.

But as the bus approached Seventh Avenue, the driver got on the intercom. "Folks," he said, "I know you have had a rough day and you are frustrated. I can't do anything about the weather or traffic, but here is what I can do. As each one of you gets off the bus, I will reach out my hand to you. As you walk by, drop your troubles into the palm of my hand, okay? Don't take your problems home to your families tonight, just leave them with me. My route goes right by the Hudson River, and, when I drive by there later, I will open the window and throw your troubles in the water."

It was as if a spell had lifted. Everyone burst out laughing. Faces gleamed with surprised delight. People who had been pretending for the past hour not to notice each other's existence were suddenly grinning at each other like, is this guy serious?

Oh, he was serious.

At the next stop, just as promised, the driver reached out his hand, palm up, and waited. One by one, all the exiting commuters placed their hand just above his and mimed the gesture of dropping something into his palm. Some people laughed as they did this, some teared up...but everyone did it. The driver repeated the same lovely ritual at the next stop, too. And the next. All the way to the river.

We live in a hard world, my friends. Sometimes it is extra difficult to be a human being. Sometimes you have a bad day. Sometimes you have a bad day that lasts for several years. You struggle and fail. You lose jobs, money, friends, faith, and love. You witness horrible events unfolding in the news, and you become fearful and withdrawn. There are times when everything seems cloaked in darkness. You long for the light but don't know where to find it.

But what if you are the light? What if you are the very agent of illumination that a dark situation begs for? That's what this bus driver taught me, that anyone can be the light, at any moment. This guy wasn't some big power player. He wasn't a spiritual leader. He wasn't some media savvy influencer. He was a bus driver, one of society's most invisible workers. But he possessed real power, and he used it beautifully for our benefit.

When life feels especially grim, or when I feel particularly powerless in the face of the world's troubles, I think of this man and ask myself, "What can I do, right now, to be the light?" Of course, I can't personally end all wars, or solve global warming, or transform vexing people into entirely different creatures. I definitely can't control traffic. But I do have some influence on everyone I brush up against, even if we never speak or learn each other's name.

No matter who you are, or where you are, or how mundane or tough your situation may seem, I believe you can illuminate your world. In fact, I believe this is the only way the world will ever be illuminated, one bright act of grace at a time, all the way to the river.

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Lessons and Carols has been an Advent tradition in Anglican churches since the second half of the 19th Century. (Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham and the Church Pension Group: [www.cpg.org/global/online-resources/cartoons/](http://www.cpg.org/global/online-resources/cartoons/))







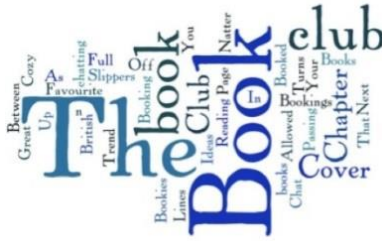
## The Gift

Be still, my soul, and steadfast.  
Earth and heaven both are still watching  
though time is draining from the clock  
and your walk, that was confident and quick,  
has become slow.

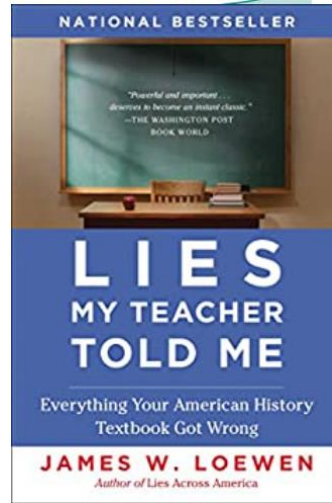
So, be slow if you must, but let  
the heart still play its true part.  
Love still as once you loved, deeply  
and without patience. Let God and the world  
know you are grateful.  
That the gift has been given.

—*Mary Oliver*





PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022



Due to the pressing and conflicting schedules related to Grace Episcopal Church business, Christmas, and Mission-related commitments, our next book date will be scheduled on Saturday, February 5th! As this will be our first gathering of the year, we will close our book discussion with our traditional New Year's toasts/wishes/wisdom with one another to help us start our 19th year together as a Book Cub.

This 1995 bestseller (which has been updated over the years) really highlights how the publishing industry, together with other parties, intentionally produced textbooks which entirely excluded, rescripted, or misrepresented many facts and aspects of our national history. How many of us remember hearing about some event or unbelievable fateful decision as adults and thinking this cannot be true, we never covered this in school!!! Prepare to learn how and why this all happened!

Until we meet again, stay warm, safe, and healthy and enjoy this timeless classic by the late James W. Loewen.



## DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS



- 4 Caroling Concert at Market Square
- 6 Vestry Meeting
- 5 Search TableTop Discussion at Trinity Campus
- 8 Social Justice Mission Committee Zoom
- 10 Staff Meeting
- 12 Bishop Dietsche's Visitation (St. Paul's Campus)
- 14 St. Paul's Buildings & Grounds
- 19 In-person Vestry Meeting at Trinity
- 24 Christmas Eve:
  - Family Service and Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)
  - First Mass of Christmas (Trinity Campus)
- 25 Christmas Day Eucharist (St. Paul's Campus)

Yesterday I  
was clever,  
so I wanted  
to change  
the world.

Today I am  
wise, so I  
am changing  
myself.

-Rumi





**ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 10 Alexander Sergey Mahlau
- 11 Kathryn Brocchi
- 13 Joan Holsten  
Jonathan Moser  
Andy Madison
- 14 Karen Pasieka
- 17 Jan Greene
- 18 John Engle
- 20 Janet Robertson
- 25 Lisa Marie Liberti
- 28 JoAnn McGrath

**ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Christine and John Schuler
- 28 Carolyn Black and Arthur Hightower

**ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER BAPTISMS**

- 28 William Losee

**TRINITY'S DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- Diahann C. Malcolm 1
- Emric Cole 3
- Zoe Grace Parker 3
- Christopher D. Boswell 11
- Elfreda Okyne 12
- Carissa Paige Wagner 20
- Stephen Okyne 24
- Janet L. Hughes 27

**TRINITY'S DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER BAPTISMS**

- 18 Jeffrey Barnes
- 19 Virginia Pomoell
- 21 Lenora Senghas
- 23 Peter Gross  
Mary Moser
- 28 Jessica Von Euen





### **CLERGY**

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Mayer, Acting Priest-in-Charge  
The Rev. Dorothee R. Caulfield, Deacon  
Lainie Murrell, Deacon-in-Formation

#### **ST. PAUL CAMPUS OFFICE**

Carolyn R. Black, Music Director  
Tina Farrell, Church Administrator  
Beth Pollack, Treasurer

#### **TRINITY CAMPUS OFFICE**

Christopher Fasulo, Minister of Music  
Tam Hernández, Parish Administrator  
Katherine Pendzuk, Treasurer and Verger  
Pablo Montoya, Sexton

### **VESTRY**

Tam Hernández, Warden  
Margery Barnes, Clerk

Sue Monroe, Warden  
Sally Evans, Clerk

Charles Baker  
Alexis Cullen  
Kellie Ishmael

Milton Kerr  
Darryl Moy

Kate Pendzuk  
Cecilia Quintero  
Roger Rowe



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.

Grace Episcopal Church  
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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WELCOMES YOU

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 108  
OSSINING, NY 10562

