Grace Notes

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

Volume 2 Number 2 February 2022



"Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36)

Somehow, we have come to the moment in our journey together as parish and priest that we must say goodbye. And as I sat with that fact, and with preparing to write this, my final Priest's Message for *Grace Notes*, the biblical story that presented itself to me was the story in Acts 8 of Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian Eunuch.

In the story, Philip, travelling along a wilderness road, encounters the eunuch, an officer in the court of the Queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch is returning from a trip to Jerusalem where he had worshipped and was reading a passage from Isaiah when Philip came upon him. Philip, at the eunuch's request, interprets the text for him, and the eunuch's heart was opened to the truth about Jesus. Arriving together at a body of water, the eunuch asks to be baptized; Philip consents, and in a remarkable moment, when the two men come up out of the water, the Spirit "snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:39) Brand-new as a follower of Jesus, the eunuch, a wealthy and powerful man who had revealed an insecurity about the suitability of his being baptized, was now experiencing fully the presence and power of a God who excludes no-one.

We, too, are brand-new, in our own way. We may have insecurities, like the eunuch did; in our case, about the path that lies before us. It is only natural to feel this way. So many unknowns lie ahead. Will we grow, in numbers, in our spiritual lives, in raising up new leaders within our parish family? Will we discern clearly the path God has in mind in our stewardship of our two beautiful campuses? Will the Spirit guide our Search process and bring us exactly the priest we need to lead us?

What I want to say to you today, with all my heart, is that I have faith that the answer to all of these questions will prove to be "yes!" The same power, larger than the two of them, that transformed the eunuch and transported Philip, that same Holy Spirit, is present in the life of our parish community. Grace Church, in ways we cannot see clearly yet, will be transformed into the progressive, welcoming, serving parish Ossining needs for the challenging times in which we live. It will be a cause for great rejoicing.

So, dear friends, pray without ceasing. Know that I will be praying with you. And know that the God in whom all things are possible will answer those prayers and bless the common life of the place now called Grace.

Faithfully yours,

Fr. Charlie+



DEACON BEACON

40 days after Christmas we celebrate Candlemas. It happens to fall on my favorite holiday – Groundhog Day! It's my favorite because it's a day dedicated to celebrating a creature of God! And actually... it's very silly! But I think we can look deeper and find some interesting spiritual guidance for us now.

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ or the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was the day that Mary and Joseph fulfilled Jewish law and brought Jesus to the temple. Waiting there was Simeon. Simeon was a devout Jew who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He had waited a very long time. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple Simeon took Jesus into his arms and uttered the words we now know as the Nunc Dimittis which we say in compline every night.

So, what do the two celebrations have in common? Waiting. The groundhog usually tells us to wait 6 more weeks until spring and Simeon had waited a very long time to behold the Messiah, the Christ.

We at Grace are now waiting to see who the next priest to shepherd us into our own bright future will be. While we are sad to say farewell to Charlie, we can look forward to a spring filled with possibility, and light.

See you in church.

Deacon Dorothée

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WONDERING WHO WILL LEAD OUR SERVICES?



We are very pleased that the Rev. Dr. Carole Johannsen, BCC, will be serving us while we search for a new full-time priest, Mo. Carole will be celebrating Communion with us on the third Sunday of the month and will be in Ossining on Wednesdays for pastoral visits. She is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of New York and a board-certified healthcare chaplain. She recently retired as Coordinator of Pastoral Care at Phelps Hospital, where she began as a Hospice Chaplain in 2002.

Ordained in the Diocese of CT, she served four parishes as the Interim Pastor, including a Lutheran church. She also taught the History of Christianity at Western CT State

University and designed and led a two-year diocesan program for laity and prospective deacons. Before ordination, she was the founding director of the Interfaith A.I.D.S. Ministry of Greater Danbury, which continues as a social service agency with a spiritual foundation.

In New York, she was the rector of St. Luke's, Katonah, before going to Phelps, and for five years, was the Chair of the Editorial Advisory Committee of The Episcopal New Yorker, our diocesan newspaper.

She is a graduate of Dean Junior College, Franklin, MA; of Western CT State University, summa cum laude, as an English/Journalism major; of Yale Divinity School where she earned a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Judaic Studies; and of New York Theological Seminary where she received a Doctor of Ministry, focusing on Spirituality and Aging.

For fun, she is a choral singer (or was, pre-pandemic), loves to knit, read (especially mysteries), garden a bit, and write poetry. On Fridays she volunteers at Green Chimneys School in Brewster in their Farm and Wildlife Center and notes that after four degrees and two ordinations, God's unlimited sense of humor now has her mucking out goat stalls—and loving it! She is a member of the People of St. Andrew's, an Episcopal congregation that meets in Brewster at Melrose, the home of the Community of the Holy Spirit. Her two children and their families (five grandchildren) are based in Carmel and Oxford, CT, and among them they have six pit bulls and a mutt, eight cats (two of whom live with Carole), a flock of Muscovy ducks, a bunch of chickens and one pampered chinchilla.

We will be in very good hands!



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

Since we will host the Traveling Shelter at our Trinity Campus from January 31st to February 20th, we will worship at the St. Paul's Campus for four weeks in February.

February 6	10:30 AM	Communion at St. Paul's Campus	Epiphany 5
February 13	10:30 AM	Communion at St. Paul's Campus	Epiphany 6
February 20	10:30 AM	Communion at St. Paul's Campus	Epiphany 7
February 27	10:30 AM	Morning Prayer at Trinity	Epiphany Last

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

On Monday, Friday, and Saturday, we pray the service of Compline on our Grace Ossining Facebook page and our YouTube channel. Our leaders are Fr. Mayer, Carolyn Black, and Graham Gulian. Thank you all! As Fr. Mayer leads the Monday Compline, the last of those services will be February 7th.

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

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the annual election of the Wardens and Vestry of this Parish shall take place on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall on the St. Paul's on the Hill campus.

Because we are a new parish as Grace Ossining, all vestry positions are being filled. According to our bylaws, wardens will serve terms of two years and vestry members terms of three years. However, in order to create continual renewal of the vestry, the terms of the vestry members being elected this year are as follows:

Wardens: One for a one-year term; one for a two-year term

Vestry: Two for one-year terms; two for two-year terms; two for three-year terms A Nominating Committee has been appointed, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Charles Mayer, Charles Baker, Mark Monroe, Darryl Moy, and Terri Roman.

Questions concerning the preparation of the Nominating Committee slate should be directed to members of the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor are permissible at the meeting. Those eligible to vote must be eighteen years of age, baptized, and regular in attendance and support of either Trinity or St. Paul's on the Hill over the past twelve months.

On Sunday, February 13th, we will hold our first annual meeting as Grace Episcopal Church Ossining! It will take place after the service on the St. Paul's Campus and will come before we say our final farewell to Fr. Charlie. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a really terrific turnout...for both events!

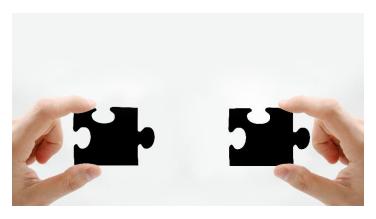
Nominees to the Vestry

For Warden:

Tam Hernández (2023) Darryl Moy (2024)

For Vestry:

Mark Monroe (2023) Kate Pendzuk (2023) Kellie Ishmael (2024) Milton Kerr (2024) Maribeth Osgood (2025) Ed Shultz (2025)



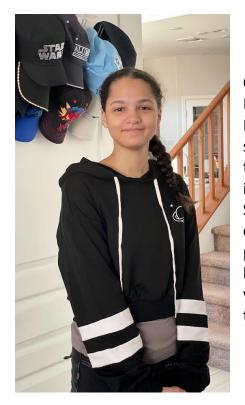
VESTRY UPDATE

It's amazing how many parts there are to joining our two parishes into our new Grace Episcopal Church Ossining. A lot of work has been done behind the scenes! Here are some highlights:

- New checking account
- New charge card
- Investments now under the Grace Ossining name
- New tax-exempt ID in process
- New property deeds received
- Membership files combined
- Financial reports reformatted

Two things to make your day better: • Do not watch the news. • Stay off the bathroom scales.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



On January 20th, Jordan Elizabeth Piscitelli, Carolyn Black's granddaughter, was inducted into the National Honor Society. She has had all of her classes online since the ninth grade and passed Advanced Physics in the eleventh grade with an A+. As a part of her initiation, she must do a certain amount of Community Service. (See pictures below) She is 17 and is considering a career as a Climate Engineer. She enjoys playing guitar and creating songs on her piano, and all kinds of Art. She created a beautiful mural on her 12-year-old sister's bookcase. It was a Christmas present to her sister, who was thrilled.



Cleaning up the beach



Community Fridge and Pantry



Making sandwiches

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



Phase I of the Grace Church's search for a new priest is now complete. The vestry approved the diocesan-required Parish Profile and accompanying support documents have now been forwarded to Canon Nora Smith at the New York diocese Office of Transition Ministry. The profile and its linked documents which include a visual letter about Ossining, a photo journal of Grace Episcopal Church and a portfolio containing answers to standard questions posed by the diocese

are now public on our website https://graceossining.org/ for all, including candidates, to see.

The search committee has worked diligently, productively, and collaboratively since mid-October to get to this point in the process. Along the way we have had to lean on the time and talents of others without whom we would not have been able to get as far as fast. We are grateful and indebted to each of you, those who have edited, formatted, corrected spelling and grammar, shared ideas, and provided opinions. This has been and will continue to be a parishwide effort and in the end we will all reap the rewards of everyone's hard work.

Phase II of the search process began with Canon Nora attending our January 25 meeting. During her visit she identified the next steps for the committee. Once our Profile and call for applicants is public, we await the applications. A call for interviews will be sent once we have reviewed all applications. While we await our applicants, the committee will develop interview questions guided by Canon Nora and the support materials provided by the Office of Transition Ministry.

The committee intends to greet Phase II with the same rigor and determination as Phase I. We are aware of the importance of having a priest for Grace as we continue our new journey. We ask for your prayers for wisdom and that God will bring us the candidate that we need.

The committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Charles Mayer for his patience, guidance, wisdom, and humor. We would not have become the friends we have without you. We will miss you...

Grace Ossining Search Committee

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Ed Shultz <u>eshultz5@gmail.com</u>

Online Anti-Racism Curriculum & Concepts

Session 1 -- The Difference Between Us -- Monday, January 24th

Session 2-- The Story We Tell – Thursday, January 27th

Session 3-- The House We Live In -Monday, January 31st

Session 4--What Can One Person Do? - Thursday, February 3rd

I am halfway through this current offering of an Anti-Racism workshop, and it has been very well attended, well planned, and personally productive. Courageous conversations take place in breakout rooms, they are safe and respectful places where people speak from the heart about their background, experiences, and internal struggles. There are rules concerning etiquette, confidentiality, and mutual invitation to encourage others to either participate or decline to tell their stories. This is the first of four programs scheduled for this year. For more information on remote, hybrid, or in person Antiracism offerings please check out the link below.

https://dioceseny.org/mission-and-outreach/social-concerns/anti-racism/

Bishop Dietsche has been very sincere in his promise to expose the hidden parts of our national, local, and church histories so we can be more aware, mindful, and active in recognizing the different forms, effects, and consequences of systemic racism. Meaningful change cannot happen until we all see it, call it out, and resolve to own and remedy those unjust practices before we can truly become a place where we are all seen as ONE.

Cecilia Quintero



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 @ 1:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Thanks for being so patient in allowing me more time to prepare for our first TBC event of 2022! The last few months have been CRAZY with a few of my commitments. As this will be our first gathering of the year, we will close our discussion of James W. Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me* with our traditional New Year's toasts/wishes and/or wisdom with one another to help us start our 19th year together as a Book Club.



Given all the recent news accounts of School Boards and Library Board meetings experiencing hostile speakers who are recommending that books be banned from either the curriculum or the collections, I'd say we could not have picked a better date for this book. During this midterm election season, the term CRT (Critical Race Theory) has become so weaponized and is now a theme of many GOP campaigns. So, if you haven't picked it up yet, you have two weeks to get busy with your TBC homework.

Remember as Isaac Asimov once said, "Any book worth banning is a book worth reading."

Until we meet again, stay warm, safe and healthy and enjoy this timeless classic. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

(Feel free to share this with anyone who may be interested.)

Cecilia Quintero



FEBRUARY

- 5 The Book Club (*Lies My Teacher Told Me*)
- 7 Vestry Meeting
- 11 Staff Meeting
- 13 Annual Meeting and Farewell to Fr. Charlie
- 16 REPAIR meets

The Travelling Shelter is housed at our Trinity Campus January 31-February 20

Things I'm Super Good At

- 1. Forgetting someone's name 30 seconds after they tell me.
- 2. Running. Late, that is.
- 3. Making plans...then regretting making plans.
- 4. Thinking of a great comeback an hour later.
- Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
- 6. Adding items to online carts. Then deleting.
- 7. Googling my ailments. Then panicking.
- 8. Leaving laundry to wrinkle in the dryer.
- 9. Forgetting why I walked into the room.
- Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Karen Pauline	2	Adam Wagner	18
Dhalya Baker Wagner	5	Doris Beresford	20
Donald W. L. Chadeayne	9	Abbigail Ruth Garcia	22
The Rev. Cooper Conway	9	Stephanie Silicato	22
Robert Docker	9	Emerica Jusu-Davies	23
Susan Holsten Madera	9	Evelyn Marie Steckmeister	24
Christina Cowan Richmod	12	Julie Gross	25
Kathen Cowan Reynolds	13	Brooke McGrath	25
Jeremiah Allen	14	Ian Robertson	25
Nicholas Kip	14	Audrey Del Bene	26
Linnet Baker	15	Jessica Bowen	29

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Janet Hughes and Diahann Malcolm



CLERGY

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

ST. PAUL CAMPUS OFFICE

Tina Farrell, Administrator Beth Pollack, Treasurer Carolyn R. Black, Music Director Emeritus Anthony Sena, Sexton

TRINITY CAMPUS OFFICE

Tam Hernández, Administrator Katherine Pendzuk, Treasurer and Verger Pablo Montoya, Sexton

VESTRY

Tam Hernández, Warden Sue Monroe, Warden

Charles Baker Kellie Ishmael Kate Pendzuk
Margery Barnes Milton Kerr Cecilia Quintero
Alexis Cullen Darryl Moy 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

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