Grace Notes

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

Volume 2 Number 1 January 2022



"And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Rev. 21:5

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, my family had the great privilege to get away for a trip to the "historic triangle" in southeast Virginia: Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown. With great attention to COVID protocols--we were masked indoors and out, avoided indoor dining, and steered clear of any crowded indoor spaces--we enjoyed a four-day immersion into three moments in American history: the original 1607 English settlement at Jamestown, the capitol of colonial Virginia as it appeared in 1775, and the battlefields involved in the last conflict of the American revolution in 1781. I had visited as a boy with my family and was eager to share the experience with my wife and daughter.

It was partly exactly what I remembered and expected: a step back in time, with actors in costume, precisely restored buildings, and excellent museums. But it was also something very different than anticipated, and this is where I want to put my focus. Not only were we paying attention to COVID protocols (and to the many closed venues due to understaffing), but we all found that we were paying attention to the history represented there in a way that was very different than it would have been even right before the pandemic began.

Jamestown, for example, is a place that contributed directly to the end of a Native American society, in a quick, bloody, and disease-driven way. Williamsburg, with its thriving shops and charming homes, had a population that was 52% enslaved in 1775. And the nation whose independence was secured in 1781 was one in which white, adult, landed, Protestant men would be the only full citizens.

All of this was presented clearly at each of the sites. The excellent little museum of African American religion in Williamsburg is worth the trip by itself. So are the two art museums. One exhibit shows the history of how Christmas became an entirely commercial matter in 19th-century Virginia, beginning with the truly incredible marketing of German toys which came to be thought of as central to any family's Christmas morning. Indeed, "Virginia," from the very beginning, was a commercial project much more than a political one, and the destruction of Native populations and enslavement of Africans drove the project from the outset.

As I've said, all of this was acknowledged, in many ways and at various locations, throughout the three sites. Still, they are primarily a celebration of the birth of the new American national project. What was different about this visit, my family thought, was the way in which we paid attention differently, saw differently, than we would have before December of 2019. We were not lulled into a mythic bubble of American triumphalism. We experienced in a deep way how problematic our origins are. There are absolutely parts of the story that are positive and worth celebrating. But the pandemic has taught us too much, changed us too much, to deny the deep, painful truths embedded in the story of colonial America.

This, I want to say, is only a good thing. Our God is a God who makes all things new. We are all participating in a paradigm shift in which, for those with eyes to see and ears to hear, we can no longer deny the fundamental inequities and injustices on which Western capitalist societies are built. Grace Church was born in the midst of this paradigm shift. My prayer, as we begin this new year, is that God would give us grace to be a part of God's great plan to make all things new.

New Year's blessings to you.

Fr. Charlie+



DEACON BEACON

Welcome to 2022! I can barely believe we are here. But reflecting briefly on where we've been gives me hope for our new year.

21 months since we were asked to shut down because of this scary Pandemic and we're still fighting our way through. True, we have lost a lot, but we have also gained a lot. For Grace Church one of the biggest losses was Shirley Crute. I miss her every time I walk into one of our campuses. But the lessons I learned from her about faith and fighting for just causes is not lost to me. I carry a little bit of Shirley forward into 2022. I hope you will carry her forward too. We lost the ability to celebrate many things in these past 21 months; besides the Eucharist for many months, Charlie joining us part time in 2020, Cooper retiring in early 2021, Charlie becoming our Interim, the dissolution of our historic churches and the birth of our new church Grace! And so many more I'm not sure I can even relate them all. And of course, the losses and celebrations deferred personally by each of us.

But we are people of creation called to look ahead. Yes, we must be conscious of our past but as a dear friend reminded me yesterday, we must not stare at the past, perhaps reflecting on it from time to time but do not stare. There is no life there. We must learn from it and carry forward our best selves.

So, how are we called to co-create with God in this shiny new year? Who are we growing to be? The Vestry decided to defer choosing a logo for our new church because they're not sure who we are becoming. I get that we must move forward and find out exactly who God is calling us to be. What will I, or you, contribute to this new creation?

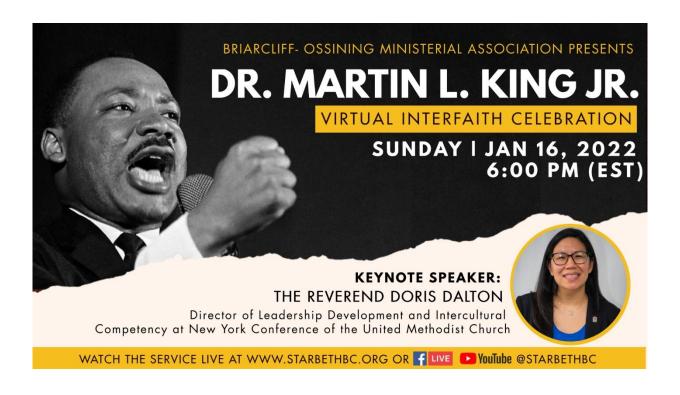
We have a unique opportunity with the calling of a new priest to grow and change into the very thing that God needs in our church, our community, and the world.

I know I've asked a lot of questions that I don't have answers for, but together with God we're on the road to discover those answers. The most important thing to remember is that God already knows the answers, now all we have to do is be faithful, pray, and listen for the God who loves us madly.

May you and your loved ones be blessed in this new year,

Deacon Dorothée Deacon Dorothée

deaconfee@gmail.com 914-263-4452



O FRABJOUS DAY!!

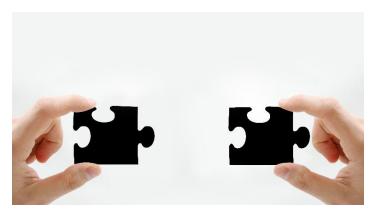
December 12, 2021

We welcome Michael Fermann and Clyde Newman as Confirmands and receive Amy Kitahata-Sporn into Communion at Grace.









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:

- We have new bylaws, developed by our lawyer and reviewed by the Chancellor of the Diocese, Alice Yurke, Esq., as requested by Bishop Dietsche. The most significant change from the point of view of the congregation is that Grace will have two Wardens and six Vestry members. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the bylaws.
- Our accountant presented his report on December 20th. Merging our financial systems and working out the procedures needed is perhaps the most daunting task of our merger. The vestry has turned the job of reviewing and making recommendations to a committee made up of St. Paul's Finance Committee and Trinity's Investment Committee. (The members are Sally Evans, Tam Hernández, Jack Kouloheris, Jo Ann McGrath, Mark Monroe, Sue Monroe, Darryl Moy, Kate Pendzuk, Beth Pollack, and Richard Shaw, with Fr. Charlie as an ex officio member.) They will meet this month.
- Following the recommendation of our Communications Task Force (Lisa Rosenbloom, Beth Pollack, Chris Fasulo, Tam Hernández, and Deacon Dorothée), we have engaged a web designer to create our new web site. And the vestry has approved an interim logo. Here it is!





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 Trinity Campus for four weeks in January and at the St. Paul's Campus for four weeks in February.

In addition, due to the increase in COVID cases, there will be no in-person congregation.

Our services will be live-streamed until further notice.

| January 2 | 10:30 AM | Morning Prayer at Trinity Campus (Rite I) | Holy Name |
|------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| January 9 | 10:30 AM | Communion at Trinity Campus (Rite I) | Epiphany |
| January 16 | 10:30 AM | Communion at Trinity Campus (Rite I) | Baptism of Christ |
| January 23 | 10:30 AM | Communion at Trinity Campus (Rite I) | Epiphany 3 |
| January 30 | 10:30 AM | Communion at St. Paul's Campus | Epiphany 4 |

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/UCP1qGAuJIIxWU8Z 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 Dorothée 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 AFGHAN Relief, Christmas 2021



Our Packing Team: Ed Shultz, Jo Ann McGrath, Sally Evans, Deacon Dorothée, Sue Monroe, Cha Moy, Margery Barnes (missing: Mark Monroe, photographer; Beth Pollack, dog walker)



Just some of the boxes!



Officer Yousef Said, Sue Monroe, and Officer Tommy Shair on pickup day! Both officers are from the 84th Precinct.



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. Our meetings are now virtual as we try to avoid Omicron!

Thus far we have nearly completed the Office of Transition Ministry's Portfolio – a collection of pertinent data and answered questions designed to be used by the diocese for their support of our Search. Additionally, a significant portion of our Parish Profile has been written. It will be edited, tweaked, and proofread by the members and then forwarded to the vestry for their review and approval mid-January.

Once Grace Ossining's website is up and running the profile will be posted there, and on the websites of the NY Diocese and the National church for potential Candidate's access. 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.

To that end, the committee has begun formulating a list of interview questions. The committee will eventually identify at most two candidates to be sent to the vestry for review. A more intense interview process will select a priest to call. We are committed to moving this process forward in a timely fashion, believing that Grace Ossining needs permanent stable leadership in order to see our vision become reality.

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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Alexis Cullen <u>acncullen@gmail.com</u>
Jo McGrath <u>mcgrathinator@gmail.com</u>
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Richard Shaw <u>rssshaw@gmail.com</u>
Ed Shultz <u>eshultz5@gmail.com</u>



William Cowan, born 1926 in Chicago, Illinois, died of pneumonia December 8, 2021 at CVPH Sub-Acute Rehab in Plattsburgh NY. 'Bill' was the oldest son of Donald and Helen Cowan. He was predeceased by his youngest brother, Hugh, his sister, Anne, and his first wife, the former June Thompson. He is survived by his younger brother, Ross, his wife, Lisa Gibson, daughters Kathen, Jennifer & Christina, five grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren.

One year before entering the Navy during WWII (July 1944), Bill attended the highly unusual college, Deep Springs, in the California desert. There, he was encouraged to follow one of the school's major principles, public service to community, and consequently became involved with many non-profit

organizations. (He remained very involved with Deep Springs, both fundraising, and acting as 1943 class chair.) In early 1947, after graduating from Harvard courtesy of the Navy, he lived in war-torn France doing relief work until Autumn 1948. He then earned a master's degree at Cleveland's Western Reserve University.

He was recalled for military duty in 1952 and served two years during the Korean War. In 1958, accepting the job of Assistant Director of the Salzburg Seminar, he moved to Austria with his wife and two daughters. Upon returning, they lived briefly in Pelham Manor before settling down, now with a third daughter, in Ossining, NY. There, he was a dedicated member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church for almost 50 years, singing in the choir and at various times taking on the duties of vestry warden, Sunday school supervisor, and treasurer.

Bill worked for many years as Managing Editor and then Editorial Vice-President at Oceana Publications in Dobbs Ferry. However, during a meeting held by Pete Seeger for the start of the Clearwater Sloop effort, Pete paired Bill with another publishing executive, Jack Rynerson, saying he wanted a "Souvenir Booklet" for a fundraising event. After Bill and Jack produced it, Pete then wanted a second book, one with the songs of the Clearwater. At that point, Bill and Jack started their new publishing company, North River Press, Inc. with *Songs and Sketches of the First Clearwater Crew*.

Bill was a political activist, wholeheartedly believing in service to community. To that end he was involved in the Liberal, and then the Working Families Party. He also served for four years as Board Chair of IFCA, a local housing organization in Ossining.

A memorial service will be planned for him in Ossining sometime in May 2022. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Deep Springs, either online at https://www.deepsprings.edu/donate or by mail to: Deep Springs College, HC 72 Box 45001, Dyer, NV 89010. Or to a charity of your choice.

Bill was greatly respected, admired, and loved by his family and friends. He is greatly missed.



STEWARDSHIP 2022

When you read this, the new year will have arrived. We know we are all hoping for something better than last year; most specifically, progress in controlling COVID, which is once again disrupting our lives in so many ways.

You also will have received our Stewardship letter and pledge card. At this moment there are no plans for a formal stewardship program as has been done in past years. However, giving a portion of our worldly treasure for the work of the church is a constant and expected commitment. In this inaugural year of Grace Church, perhaps it is even more important than ever as we find our way forward, becoming a community in service to ourselves and our world.

We urge you to return your pledge card as soon as you are able so that we can, in the early weeks of this new year, begin preparing our budget. Our approach will be a bit different for some of us.

Instead of creating a budget, then fitting our resources to match it, we are going to look at our giving first and construct a budget based on the commitments we make. In other words, we will do the ministry that we can afford to do, that we envision doing with the resources we have pledged.

We thank those who have already responded by sending in your pledges for this year. For those who have yet to do so, a bit of housekeeping. As we are not physically meeting during January, please mail your cards to:

Grace Episcopal Church P.O. Box 108 Ossining, NY 10562

(Mail addressed to the physical location may be returned. Going forward, ALL mail should be sent to Grace Church at the P.O. Box.)

Blessings and best wishes for the new year.

Your Stewardship Team

Fr. Charlie, Margery Barnes, and Sally Evans

OSSINING'S TRAVELING HOMELESS SHELTER

Dear Parish Family,

This is a reminder that Grace Church will be hosting the Ossining Homeless Shelter from Monday, January 31st though Monday, February 21st in the Trinity nave. Worship, if we are back in person, will be at St Paul's for those weeks.

We are committed to providing meals for the shelter guests during those three weeks. As I said in a previous message, I would very much like us to be able to do that without outside help. We will very shortly provide you with an online way to sign up for day(s) when you can provide dinner and/or breakfast/lunch food. Please look at your calendars NOW! February will be here before we know it.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call or email me. I will begin creating a schedule as soon as I have volunteers.

This is a service to the community we have participated in since 2017. Mother Cooper was very instrumental in the inception of the shelter and is most eager for us to continue this ministry. If you have not participated in the past, this is the year to begin.

Thank you!

Sally Evans

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hudsonkat801@gmail.com

"Don't ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive
and go do it. Because what the
world needs is people who
have come alive."

- Howard Thurman

Passages & Transitions: A Message for 2022

These past two years have been testing us, challenging us, and inviting us to be more mindful and thoughtful of how we can be more present, supportive, and attentive to each other and those in our community. Father Charlie has been diligently working with our team to get us ready to be there for those who may need a helping hand with some tasks which were easier to manage back in the day or might just need information or referrals on getting experts to assist with eldercare, downsizing, a move, aging in place, or any other matters which may arise during your life in Ossining. Our team draws on the life experience and talents of: Ed Shultz, Margery Barnes, Beth Pollack, Cecilia Quintero, Sally Evans, and Linda Levine. If we cannot assist you with the expertise you need, we will help you to research the available resources and services in our area. Please contact Cecilia at cquintero1506@gmail.com if you have any questions.

May this prayer which has been selected by our team bring you comfort and hope!

AN IRISH PRAYER:

MAY God give you, for every storm, a rainbow,
for every tear, a smile,
for every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share.
For every sigh, a sweet song.
And an answer for each prayer.

Wishing you a Healthy, Peaceful and Productive New Year!





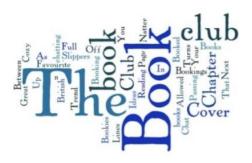
FROM SEVEN THOUSAND WAYS TO LISTEN BY MARK NEPO

Time and again, I am humbled - broken and opened at once - by the mysterious fact that life is all things at all times. For every death there is somewhere a birth. For every clarity there is somewhere a confusion. For every pain there is somewhere a joy. And being simple human beings, we can't possibly comprehend or hold it all. But briefly, when still, we can feel it. Like a shell being hollowed by the sea, we are slowly cleansed. Hard as this is, it is worth everything.

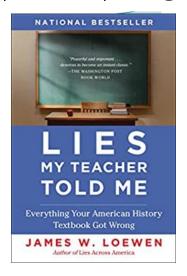
The light today stops me. It is both merciless and merciful in its beauty: stilling my pain, softening the break, and illuminating what has been opened. We can resist this fierce blessing, but seldom escape the teaching of the break and the teaching of the light.

In this unexpected moment after pain, I realize that, when things fall apart, they make a lot of noise. When things come together, they do so quietly and slowly. And so, we often miss them. Our culture is obsessed with how things fall apart. The news reports only the noise of things breaking down. The weather is even called Storm Watch. Yet things are constantly coming together, though we have forgotten how to hear them.

It seems that much of our work is helping each other stay awake to the one common world, individually and in community. What makes this a compassionate journey is the inescapable fact that we all run from the sleepiness of our own world to the wakefulness of our common world; until weighed down by the noise of our society, we long for the silence of our personal inlet to eternity. Back and forth we go. In each case, we are humbled to think that what matters is elusive, when it's the stilling of our pain and the stilling of our urge to run from our pain that lets the human winter give way to spring.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022 @ 1:00 PM



Our next TBC date will be Saturday, February 5th! As this will be our first gathering of the year, we will also close our book discussion with our traditional New Year's toasts. We usually share our wishes & wisdom with each other to help us officially kick off our 19th year together as a Book Cub. Please think about books which we should consider adding to our 2022 calendar.



P.S.: Given the recent COVID stats and whatever impending post - Holiday spikes we may be experiencing I suspect this will be a ZOOM event. We will revisit and confirm our meeting details at the end of January. Until then be careful, stay safe and healthy!



- 3 Vestry Meeting
- 14 Staff Meeting

Thank you, Ray Farrell!!





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| Ryan Echevarria (Mahlau's grandson) | 2 | Barbara Rose | 18 |
|-------------------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Karley Ann Ryan | 4 | Samara Davis | 20 |
| Kate Pendzuk | 6 | Julie Davis | 25 |
| Marcus Roman | 6 | Salvatore John Triano | 26 |
| Margery Barnes | 7 | Elizabeth Bender | 27 |
| Kyle Muth | 8 | Ed Shultz | 27 |
| Lorraine Baird | 9 | Katrinka Kip | 28 |
| Tyler Shaw | 11 | Nolan Ward Amaya | 29 |
| Jeanne (Tenety) Rothrock | 14 | Jennifer Ward-Shultz | 30 |
| Beverly Vaillancourt | 17 | Tom Greene | 31 |
| Katie Pauline | 18 | Mildred Puchir | 31 |
| | | Chloe Nicole Wagner | 31 |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| Asa and Marilyn Barnes | 6 |
|-------------------------|---|
| Nunzio and Lori Liberti | 7 |



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

Carolyn R. Black, Music Director Emeritus 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 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

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