

PACE is published by

Grace Episcopal Church

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Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. to 3pm
Monday - Friday

Children's Christian Education

**First 3 Sundays
each month**

Team Teaching by :

**Karla Zargari
Debbie Zimmerman
Lynn Kramp
Bobbin Davis
Tiffany Parks
April Frazier
Charlotte Stodt**

Deadline for next *Pace*
is Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017



February, 2017

The *Pace* of Grace

From the Rector :



“Lord, have mercy!” That seems to be my fervent and frequent prayer lately. There seems to be no end to the times I exclaim it out loud, or scream it in my brain, silent to all but me. This action can be in response to any number of things that seem to be relentlessly occurring, the newspaper, the internet/social media, the television, the radio; I keep reading and hearing things that cause “Lord, have mercy” to be my most frequent response. So, what are these things that are causing this response? In a nutshell, it is the state of our humanity. First, let me say that my feelings and comments are not driven by any particular political persuasion. I am probably a political failure! It does hurt my heart to hear the way in which human beings are treating, and talking about and to, other human beings.

I feel no need to repeat the rhetoric; we hear it often enough and I have no doubt you know what I am talking about. My thoughts center around how we got where we are today and how we are going to rise above it. It is obvious that many in this country feel unheard and unvalued. It seems that Pandora's box has opened and that it is acceptable to listen to reply rather than listen to understand; to demean that which is not understood; to respond in hate rather than with love. I recognize the fear and anger that underlies these responses, however I do not approve of or accept them.

We have been so blessed at Grace and I am so proud of each of you for your ability to live with our differences. I have not observed any of the aforementioned responses in our parish family! That, however, does not let us off the hook! Scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments calls us to a higher standard. Micah 6:7-8 tells us “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Jesus, tells us that the greatest commandments are “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. and a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

continued inside

Officers & Rector :

Dave Zimmerman
Senior Warden

Larry Seymour
Junior Warden

Harry Dodds
Treasurer

Judith Stafanick
Clerk

The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway
Rector

Inside this *Pace* :

This & That

- *Church Mouse*
- *Evangelism*
- *New News*
- *Outreach*
- *Vestry*
- *Worship*

Monthly Finances

Calendars

Lessons / Readings

Looking Ahead



February 2 Goundhog Day



February 5 Annual Meeting – One service at 9am with brunch and meeting to follow



February 12 Scout Sunday at Grace and Lincoln's Birthday



February 14 St. Valentine's Day



February 20 President's Day



March 1 – Ash Wednesday

THIS JUST IN!

Blessings from God! The Little Feet Ministry has received a grant from the Diocese of Ohio to further our work in making sure that we put shoes on as many little feet as possible. Many thanks to Kathy Hill and Debbie Zimmerman for the time and good work they put into making this happen.

From the Rector: continued

That is pretty clear – if we are to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world, we must be and do. If we see injustice, we can't just let it pass. If someone is hurt by an action of another, our Lord calls us to action. We certainly can't be everywhere and fix everything, but we can certainly stand in for Jesus where ever we can. That does not mean that we must agree with everyone. It is OK to dissent, it's OK to disagree: as long as it is done respectfully and in love.

I leave you with some suggestions on how to have conversations with those who differ from us. First, the author, Rebekah Simon-Peter takes a stand that it is OK to discuss politics in church, which is an area of debate. While the following is how to discuss political issues, I think the principles can be applied to all conversations. I think we can take her advice to help us have the hard but necessary, and hopefully, healing conversations that lead to truth and trust. She recommends”

1. Start with ground rules that insure mutual respect.
2. Don't assume they voted for their candidate for the exact reason you didn't. In other words, don't assume the worst in them and the best in yourself.
3. Plan to listen deeply for the personal stories behind the political passion.
4. Assume they're not all wrong and you're not all right.
5. Assume God loves you all.

Second, a few words to ponder from one of my favorite thinkers:

From Bishop Steven Charleston:
Words matter, so I have been meditating on a few. "Freedom" is not really freedom unless it is enjoyed by every citizen. Without the counterbalance of humility "greatness" only becomes arrogance. "Safety" is justice practiced as much as it is might projected. Cultures that have historically sealed their "borders" have always stagnated from within. "Patriotism" is not only the call to defend but

the right to dissent. No nation living in a poverty of mercy for the many can be called "wealthy" because it provides privilege to the few. Those who would be "first" will be last while those who are last will be first in the eyes of God

Let us pledge to stand up for the loving way to peace and justice in our world.

M. Rose Anne

Worship

Worship Team meeting – January 10, 2017

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as presented

Phil Davis was welcomed to the meeting with some questions and suggestions. A thought was that as part of the agreement with the Choir Interns they make caroling at Grace Woods a requirement to be role models for the younger children. A request was made that the Sunday morning choir rehearsal end sooner to give parishioners quiet time before the service starts.

Review of services: A thought was there might be music while the families who will be lighting the Advent wreath process to the altar so the congregation knows when the service is starting. Christmas Eve service was wonderful and beautiful as usual. There were Sunday services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Epiphany service on Friday, January 6th was a service of Lessons & Carols with fellowship following.

We are already looking ahead to Ash Wednesday and Lent. The times for our Ash Wednesday services are still being reviewed.

While Mother Rose Anne is on vacation The Rev Pat Hanen will be with us.

The next team meeting will be Tuesday, February 14. You are invited to join the Team. No experience necessary.

Submitted by:
Judy Stafanick

EVANGELISM

Grace's Evangelism Team needs your help as we are having a difficult time coordinating people to make and take bread to the newcomers that visit Grace Church. If you enjoy baking and would be willing to bake a loaf of bread occasionally to take to a visitor; or you are someone who doesn't bake but is willing to take a welcome bag to a visitor, please let me know.

Also we are looking for people with new ideas to invite and introduce newcomers to Grace. If that is you, we would love to hear from you. The Evangelism Team meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm. The Team invites you to check us out and join us as we work on projects to help Grace move in this direction.

At this time we are still working on a tri-fold to introduce Grace to visitors and others in the community.

Soon we will be having a class to educate people about the Episcopal Church. If you are interested in learning more about our history, traditions, customs and other things, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the library. We will meet Tuesdays in February at noon with a brown bag lunch. Ask someone to join you, the more the merrier.

Peggy Burkacki

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Team is proud to welcome Toni Swisher as a new member. We were looking for a person to represent the 8AM service. Having Toni on board will facilitate communication with the 8AM parishioners. She's a thoughtful person and we look forward to her valuable input.

Tiffany Parks was unable to attend the Stewardship meeting due to burst plumbing in her garage. Josh to the rescue. She is our resident expert on E-Giving.

For the January meeting Laura Hnat (Diocesan Development) was invited to attend our January meeting to discuss Planned Giving, year-round Stewardship and E-Giving. Since Tiffany had a home emergency we had to table the E-Giving portion. An E-Giving program can be costly so Laura suggested doing a survey of the congregation to help determine the need. Laura also recommended talking to the people who said they had Grace in their Will to get feedback on their wishes.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30PM on February 14.

All things come of thee, Oh Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee

Stewardship Team: Frank Burkacki, Mother Rose Anne Lonsway, Cathy Nash, Tiffany Parks, Toni Swisher and Dave Zimmerman

For those of you who like statistics the result of our annual 2017 Pledge Drive have been tabulated. The total dollar amount pledged was \$78,472 which is a little over a \$5000 increase.

A total of 45 pledges were turned in. Six (6) new pledges were added. Fourteen (14) people increased and three (3) people decreased their pledge amount. Four (4) people were taken off Grace's list of pledges – one transferred, two moved and one died.

Thank you again for all of you who attended Grace's Kick-off luncheon and made their personal commitment to continuing our mission. We certainly had a successful Pledge Campaign for 2017.

David Zimmerman

VESTRY MEETING

The Minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting and Financial Reports were accepted and approved.

David Zimmerman reported that there are two vestry candidates running for sure and four that are still maybes.

Larry Seymour shared that we are looking into having heat in the Sunday school area. We have an estimate to update the lighting. We have measurements for new carpeting. Larry suggested we have a committee of four to select the color. The undercroft restroom(s) will be updated in the spring.

Mother Rose Anne said that Santee Security will update the security system. A Diocesan Deacon has offered to be available to Grace. Mother Rose Anne will make a plan to use her services and take it to the Bishop.

Grace will be part of the Holy Currencies program with a team of five people attending a Webinar at Trinity Commons. The cost to the church is \$300 and the Diocese will pay the rest.

The Pace is being done in the office and the first issue is in the mail.

Laura Hnat from the Diocese met with the Stewardship team to review our Stewardship commitment and she said we have a good start.

Kathy Hill reported that the Outreach Team is working to make Little Feet a year round ministry. Chris Burke will contact Edison Elementary for their input and make inquiries

of other schools to find their needs. Kathy Hill and Debbie Zimmerman will look into applying for grants. We will do three dinners this year at McKinley. Walt Iliff will offer T-shirts, sweatshirts and aprons at the Annual Meeting as a fundraiser for Little Feet.

Kathy Hill also reported for the Evangelism Team that Phil Davis is maintaining a newcomers' chart. The Team is looking for people to help with Bakers and Takers. You can be a Baker or a Taker. The tri-fold is a work in progress.

Mother Rose Anne reported that the Worship Team is looking ahead to Lent. The Christmas service times will be discussed closer to Christmas time.

Pat Newyear shared that the Pastoral Care Team is calling homebound parishioners. They are also looking for people to help with a meal to take to those in need.

Mother Rose and the Vestry thanked those members who have completed their terms – Kathy Hill, Walt Iliff (for Jerrie McCreary) and Tiffany Parks.

Submitted by: Judy Stafanick, Clerk of Vestry

OUTREACH

Little Feet –
Our focus for 2017 will be to grow our Little Feet Ministry. We are excited about the opportunity to grow this ministry to include additional schools in our community. Perhaps new shoes at the beginning of the school year and warm boots in the winter. We hope to be contacting local businesses for contributions. We are also looking into requesting grants from the diocese and perhaps other agencies. We will need to find a new store resource, as the Shoe Carnival closed as of January 15. Much to do and with God's help we will do it! So, stay tuned for more information to come.

McKinley Meals –

We are scheduled to prepare and serve meals at McKinley on February 27, June 26 and September 25. Your help with these meals is greatly appreciated.

As always, your ideas are most welcome. Please join us at our Outreach Team meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm, immediately following the Evangelism meeting. All are welcome
Peace and Blessings
Kathy Hill, Chair, Outreach Team

WE NEED HELP

We are in need of ushers and greeters at the 10am service. You would need to be committed to one service a month and you would work with a partner. If you are interested in this ministry, please let the office know. Charlotte Stoldt has agreed to train any interested people and answer any questions about the responsibilities of the usher/greeter position.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Melanie Stoldt participated in the Ohio Music Education Association competition January 21 at Mayfield High School. The schools participating were from Eastlake, Euclid, Mayfield, Mentor, Perry, Willoughby and Willowick. The participants were rated on a scale of one being the highest and five being the lowest. Melanie did a solo singing "Shenandoah" and for that she received the highest score of ONE. Congratulations to our girl Melanie!

CHURCH MOUSE TAILS

Epiphany was fun. The wise men came and we were ready with a beautiful service and then cake and punch. What else can you ask for?

We didn't have much snow this month which was good for me. Do you know how hard it is to find four matching boots?

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 5. There will be brunch and then the meeting in the undercroft. I will be there for leftovers.

The Outreach Team has made the "Little Feet" ministry a year round project cause they did so good last year and want to do better this year. Your donations are welcome at any time.

Our girl Melanie Stoldt did a great job at the music competition with her solo of Shenandoah and got the top prize. Good going girlfriend!

Mother Rose Anne and the girl got to go to the WAMA lunch at Grace Woods which is always good. I guess that is one of their perks.

Grace is going to help with a meal at McKinley on February 27. If you want to help, contact the girl or Kathy Hill.



Birthdays in February

Harry Dodds	6
Tiffany Parks	11
Peggy Burkacki	12
Larry Seymour	13
Jeanne Scupp	20
David Webster	20

Happy Anniversary

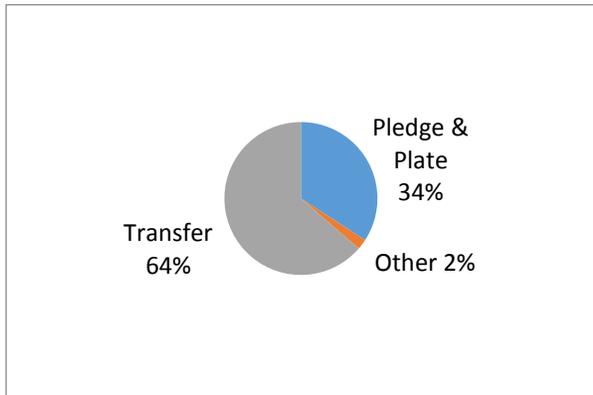
Anniversaries in February

Christian & Irene Mbajika	14
Gary & Kathy Hill	28

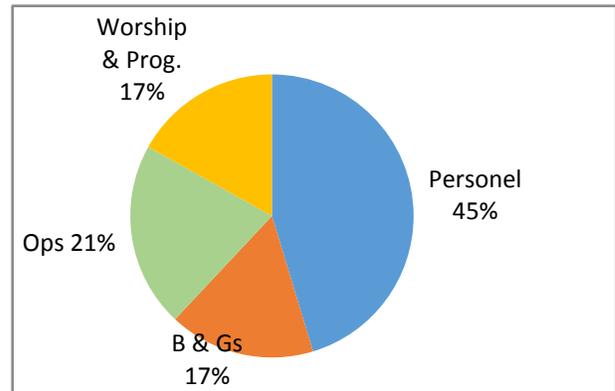
Operating Fund Report -- thru end of December 2016

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledge and Plate Contributions	\$80,011.89	\$74,800.00	\$5,211.89
Other Income	\$5,128.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,328.00
Transfer from Grace Woods Capital Fund	\$149,090.00	\$131,580.00	\$17,510.00
Total Income	\$234,229.89	\$209,180.00	\$25,049.89
 <u>Expenses</u>			
Personel	\$108,375.50	\$106,608.00	\$1,767.50
Buildings and Grounds	\$39,858.81	\$37,922.00	\$1,936.81
Operations	\$50,547.45	\$40,180.00	\$10,367.45
Worship and Programs	\$40,395.75	\$24,469.96	\$15,925.79
Total Expenses	\$239,177.51	\$209,179.96	\$29,997.55
Excess/Deficit	-\$4,947.62	\$0.04	-\$4,947.66

Income



Expenses



Treasurer's Report

I want to thank everyone for their contributions they have made this year both monetary and in talent, We exceeded our predictions for plate and pledge.

Harry Dodds, Treasurer

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Dated material
Please deliver by February, 1, 2017

READINGS FOR THE DAY

February 5
The Fifth Sunday
After the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12
The Sixth Sunday
After the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 19
The Seventh Sunday
After the Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 26
The Last Sunday
After the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9