

The PACE is published by

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

Children's Christian Education

Sunday School
Team Teaching by :

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

Co-Directors
Cathy Nash &
Debbie Zimmerman

Deadline for next *Pace* is
Sunday, December 17, 2017



The *Pace* of Grace

December, 2017



From the Rector:

A few days ago, I was having one of those “too much to do, not enough time to do it all” days. As I was pondering life’s expectations and requirements I ran across words that really put it all in perspective for me. This short prayer is found in the New Zealand Prayer Book on page 125 and it says: “God, give us work until our life shall end, and life till our work is done”. Wow! So simple yet so profound, especially as we enter this

time of preparation for Christmas, the time that has the potential to get so out of hand and obscure the reason we do what we do. It stopped my little self-pity party! How very blessed we are that God gives us work to do and gives us the life energy to accomplish that work. There are so many that, due to health or economic reasons, don’t have the life to finish their work. This simple prayer reminded me that we have God given purpose, we have energy (most of the time), we have resources to work for the coming of God’s kingdom and most important of all, we have each other. We, the community of Grace Church Willoughby, stand in a shower of blessings; blessings of love for and from our God and each other, shared fellowship, generous hearts and willing hands. As we contemplate and await the coming of Jesus, both as helpless infant and as our Lord and King, may our prayer be that we never cease to give thanks for the work we have been given to do. May we never lose sight of the fact that God is with us in it, always helping us find a way to be Jesus’ body in this world, always helping us figure out how to get it done no matter how big the work seems. I found another saying that caught my attention as well and it goes like this: “We try to flee what troubles us. But God invites staying present. Remain and find God here.” (Br. Luke Ditewig, SSJE online 11/30/2017) When life gets too much, we do try to move away from the discomfort of it all. Advent gives us the opportunity to stay present, to take the time to connect with all that God has done and is doing for us and with us. It is the opportunity to give voice to our ability to give life to the work we have been blessed with. All we have to do to know that Grace Church has life and work is to read the rest of this newsletter. Finally, as we prepare for Christ’s coming, let us open our hearts to Christ and all those God puts in our path. There are three things that I heard Presiding Bishop Curry emphasize when he was with us at Diocesan convention: “We are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement! Christianity is being hijacked, and we need witnesses!” Christianity is being hijacked by those who use words and actions of hate, oppression and injustice and call it Christianity. We need to take on
(Continued inside)

Officers & Rector:

Dave Zimmerman

Senior Warden

Chris Burke

Junior Warden

Harry Dodds

Treasurer

Judith Stafanick

Clerk

The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway,

Rector

Inside this Pace:

This & That

- *Worship*
- *Evangelism*
- *Vestry*
- *Stewardship*
- *Outreach*
- *Kids Corner*
- *New News*

Monthly Finances

Calendars

Lessons / Readings

Looking Ahead



December 3 – First Sunday in Advent



December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day

Happy Hanukkah



December 12 – Hanukkah Begins at Sundown



December 17 – Noon - Caroling at Grace Woods after the 10am service



December 20 – 7pm When Christmas Hurts



December 21 – First Day of Winter



**December 24 – 9am – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Lessons & Carols
Greening of the Church**



**December 24 – 7 pm Christmas Eve Service
December 25 – 10am Christmas Day Service**



**December 31 – 9am – New Year's Eve Service with celebration to follow
January 1, 2018 – Happy New Year!**

From the Rector: continued

the work of showing and being what we know Christ calls us to - love – as in God loves you no exceptions®, and Love God, love your neighbor, change the world! Each of these statements are the foundation of the work we have been given to do as the community of Grace Church. Let's make sure that these words form us and mold us in our waiting and working every day as we prepare for our Lord's appearing and our new year. Let these words undergird our work and our life, so that we have work and life to do it – in the name of our God. Blessed Christmas and a happy, health-filled and peace-filled New Year!

M. Rose Anne

FLOCKNOTE

We have been given an opportunity to give voice to our life and work through the Diocese. I would like to introduce you to Flocknote, a communication tool that will allow us to be in contact with each other electronically, at no cost to us – the diocese is making this tool available to all parishes. It is made for quick easy communication. Flocknote was made specifically for organizations like churches, who want to regularly communicate news (quick reminders to long newsletters), capture feedback and help all connect with the many various activities, groups, and teams throughout the organization. With Flocknote, we post information in one place and you can choose to get notified via email, text message, phone or any combination of such. Flocknote rolls email groups, text messaging lists and phone calling all into one, simple solution. You choose how you want us to communicate with you and Flocknote takes care of it. If you do not have social media capabilities – no email, no texting, the program will call you and leave a voice mail! It is a two-way communication tool, so you can get back with the office or the person/team sending out a query or you may ask for clarification of information sent. Flocknote also helps us and the diocese have and keep your contact information up-to-date and secure. That is a brief overview – there is more to come as we all learn the benefits and workings of this app. We are in the process of getting set up on the app. The next phase will

be you all choosing the information we have in the directory for you. It is easy to do, and you can do it from your cell phone if you so choose or the office can do it for you. I am excited about the communication possibilities that are available to us. This will make the work of the Information Technology team and the Long-Range Planning team much easier. More info is coming so stay tuned!

WORSHIP

The Worship Committee met on November 14. The Adult Education program will continue in January of 2018. The Advent Study Group begins Sunday, November 26 after the 10am service and the Wednesday Study Group which meets at 9am will be doing the study. It is confirmed that Cathy Nash and Debbie Zimmerman are co-directors of the Sunday School. Phil Davis will do Sunday School for the older children on the second Sunday of each month. We will celebrate Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 19 and Jeanne Schupp will set up the cornucopia. The fruit and veggies will be put in the Thanksgiving baskets. Also, the new gospel book will be blessed during the 10am service. Christ the King will be celebrated on November 26 – the color will be white and we will sing “Lift high the cross”. The Grace people will do caroling at Grace Woods after the 10am service on Sunday, December 17. But first we will have pizza. If the Christmas season is a difficult time for you, we will have When Christmas Hurts on Wednesday, December 17 at 7pm. December 24 there will be one morning service at 9am to light the fourth Advent candle. We will have lessons and carols, green the church during the service and set up the crèche. There will be one Christmas Eve service at 7pm. Scott Arra hopes to have a new song for the Sunday School children to sing. Christmas morning there will be a service at 10am and you are invited to come as you are – jammies are welcomed. New Year's Eve is still a work in progress, but Mother Rose Anne will be here and we are looking to have a nicer coffee hour to celebrate the New Year. We will discuss Epiphany at the next meeting. Jeanne Schupp

closed the meeting with prayer. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings and learn how the worship services are planned. No experience is necessary.

Submitted by: *Judy Stafanick*

EVANGELISM

Do you enjoy singing Christmas Carols? If you do, please join us as we make a joyful noise at Grace Woods on Sunday, December 17th. We will gather in the undercroft (downstairs) after the 10am service to practice while we enjoy some pizza, treats and beverages. Following we will leave to go to Grace Woods to share cheer and fellowship with those who gather to eat their lunch. Another opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season is to bake cookies to be given to the 12-step groups that meet at Grace Church. Contact Phil or Bobbin Davis so that they can make arrangements to take the cookies to each of the groups. We will be having more visitors this time of year so remember to wear your name tags. When someone new visits we only have a few names to remember, but they have many. It really helps to see a written name. Join us at our next meeting to help put together bags for Christmas Eve. The meeting is on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:00 PM. Hope to see you there.

Peggy Burkacki

STEWARDSHIP

Fall Parrish Stewardship Kick-off Luncheon- 42 signed up and 39 attended the Stewardship Luncheon. Kuhar's Catering provided such large portions we were able to send food to 4 parishioners who were temporarily shut-in. There was even some food to take home for the workers who helped clean up. What a demonstration of God's abundance. Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer from the Diocese, shared her thoughts on pledging. She said how we determine what our pledge is to be is much more

important than the dollar amount. We thank Laura for taking the time to join us and for sharing her insight. Thank you to all the people who made this luncheon possible. Currently a total of 42 people pledged. There are 10 people who pledged last year, but have not this year. That number may change as people come back from their travels etc. 14 people increased and 3 people decreased their pledges. We also have 6 new pledges from new people attending Grace. Now that's great news. The total amount pledged is \$79,707 which is up a few hundred dollars from last year. Well done thy good and faithful servants.

Why I Give 2017

I have been an active member of Grace Episcopal Church as long as I can remember. During a Stewardship campaign over forty years ago the Reverend John Simons asked me to write and present to the congregation my thoughts on giving to Grace Church. At the time giving to the church was strictly the business aspect of church life. The money I gave was meant to pay the bills. Pledging was not a spiritual experience for me, but an obligation as being part of a church family. I needed to do my part in keeping the doors open. Then about 25 years ago Dennis Kondrich, a former member of Grace, asked me if I would like to attend a Cursillo weekend the coming Spring. He explained Cursillo as a three-day retreat starting with arrival on Thursday night and lasting until Sunday. No watches were allowed or phone access (this was before the time when most people had cell phones). I was a little concerned about this lack of information and especially control. Dennis said to trust him and I did. In the early stages of my spiritual journey God was someone I called upon when needed. During the Cursillo weekend my relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit was transformed. Before the weekend I felt I had progressed to walking with the Lord. During the weekend, I began to think of God and Jesus walking ahead of me. I began attempting to follow Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit. Although I had pledged to Grace for many years I never seriously thought about tithing (10% of income) to until my Cursillo weekend. During the weekend came the realization that everything I had or will have comes from God. Pledging is my way of giving thanks to

God for all that He has given to me. My biggest obstacle was the fear of the unknown. I needed to trust in the Lord. If one decides to tithe that decision can either be a leap of faith all at once or a gradual increase with a goal of tithing. I decided to take the 10% of the first fruits and trust that the rest would fall into place. Miraculously it did. That still leaves the 90% that God has allowed me to manage. *"All things come of Thee oh Lord and of Thine own have we given Thee."* Understand and embrace these words. The amount one pledges is between us and God. If you haven't already taken the challenge of tithing the 10% I ask you to consider doing so. It worked for me and it will work for you.

Yours In Christ,
David K. Zimmerman

VESTERY MEETING

The November 21, 2017 meeting was opened with prayer and Lectio Divina by Mother Rose Anne. The minutes were amended. The minutes and Treasurer's reports were accepted and approved. The Proposed 2018 Budget was presented for review.

*The Senior and Junior Wardens, David Zimmerman and Chris Burke, will contact people to inquire of their interest in being a member of the 2018 Vestry.

*The Annual Meeting will be February 4, 2018 and reports need to be into the office by January 21, 2018. There will be one service on February 4 at 9am with brunch and meeting to follow in the undercroft.

*Long-Term Planning – Dave Webster brought in an architect to here our thoughts and to give suggestions – the elevator is a priority and reconfiguration of our space.

*Ohio Living notified Grace Church of the refinancing of their buildings.

*Sanctuary Church – discussion held about what sanctuary is and means: committing to take a person or persons into the church building until their legal situation is resolved.

*Buildings and Grounds – the Rectory sump pump was replaced. Chris Burke will get an estimate to clean the footer drains and to clean and strip the floor in the undercroft.

Winter is coming and there will be a need for snow shovels and salt.

*Rector's Report – Bishop Persell's visit and confirmation was a success. *Safe Guarding God's Children is up-to-date. *Labyrinth information was shared. *Youth Education will be on the Second Sunday for the older youth.

*NEMAC is in need of a chairperson.

*Flock Note – a new communication tool offered by the diocese was presented.

*Stewardship – see article

*Evangelism – see article

*Outreach – see article

*Worship – see article

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 21.

Submitted by: *Judy Stafanick, Clerk of Vestry*

SENIOR WARDEN STUFF

Vestry Positions – Chris Burke (filling Larry Seymour's remaining term), Pat Newyear and Dave Zimmerman will have completed their terms by the 2018 Annual meeting. Our tradition at Grace is to have the people going off the Vestry become the Nominating Committee. Since Pat Newyear is having health issues Kathy Iliff has agreed to join the Nominating Committee.

Vestry is an extremely important ministry.

There is a total of 7 members on Grace's vestry. A quorum of 4 is necessary to conduct a meeting. Vestry is the only group that requires a designated minimum number in attendance to function. The ministry of vestry will become even more important as decisions on Mission, Ministry and Long-Term Planning are made. Ideally the Nominating Committee would like to have two people for each position. This is a total of 6 people running for 3 positions. From our past experience this goal is very ambitious, but possible. The commitment as a Vestry member is to attend a monthly meeting (currently on the 3rd Tuesday at 7PM), two vestry retreats a year and be fully engaged in the life of the parish. Prayerfully consider running for Vestry.

Annual Meeting- Grace's Annual Meeting will be held on February 4th following a brunch after the combined 9AM service. All reports are to be in the office by January 21, 2018.

David Zimmerman, Senior Warden

OUTREACH TEAM

Little Feet -

November 18 was another successful shoe/boot shopping event for the kids from Edison and Grant Elementary Schools, and their families. About 90 kiddos out of the 113 on the needs list selected their own warm and comfy foot wear at JCPenny. We are blessed to be able to work in association with JCPenny and the counselors at Edison and Grant. They truly have their hearts in this ministry and look forward to a continued relationship with us. A press release was sent to the News Herald and to the Lake County Gazette to help make others in our community aware of our church and this worthwhile ministry. Many thanks also to all at Grace Church who gave their time, donations and prayers to help these families.

Giving Tree -

We will have the Giving Tree again this year. Please help us fill it with scarves, hats, mittens, etc. Oh yes, and we can't forget our pets. There will be a basket under the tree for pet gifts as well.

LCCN – (Lake County Community Network)

As in past years we have a family from the Lake County Community Network who is in need of Christmas gifts and food for their family. You can select the child you wish to provide a gift for. The child's name, age and gift wish will be on a tag either in a basket or hanging on the tree for you to select. The mom is included as well. The insert in the bulletin will have more specific information. Please remember no gift cards and there is a limit of \$30 per gift. Cash or checks are always welcome and we can do the shopping for the family member you choose if you wish. Have a peace filled and blessed Christmas.

Kathy Hill
Outreach Chair

NEMAC

The following NEMAC meeting dates have been approved for 2018:

Monday, January 22

Tuesday, April 24

Wednesday, July 25

Thursday, October 25

Please mark your calendars with these dates.

All parish members are welcome to attend.

The meetings are held at Grace Church, Willoughby, and begin at 6pm.

Margaret Dodds,
Council Chair

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays in December

David Ivey	1
Toni Swisher	2
Pat Newyear	8
Bradley Stoldt	15
Fred Stoldt	15
Doug Zargari	15
Kelsey Frazier	20
Owen Seymour	21
Carol Burke	24
Meredith Velez	26
Dorothy Ferguson	28
Jeremy Gramley	29



Anniversary in December

Sherwood & Thora Scott	31
Larry & Cindy Seymour	31

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Grace Church is offering Youth Sunday School to middle schoolers and older. We will prepare a lesson once a month. Part of that lesson would typically include the appointed readings. Class would be on the 2nd Sunday during regular Sunday School times. Class will offer a limited program that builds on the work we have done with Confirmation candidates over the last 12 months. Hear

what the Spirit is saying to us. Being confirmed is not a prerequisite to participating. Please, contact the Rector, if you have questions, or an interest in this offering.

by Phil Davis, "Teacher"

KIDS CORNER

Gracie, Allison, Shaylee and Kelsey decorated gift bags for the Inmate outreach program. Shaylee was in a school concert with her music class. Nina and her papa ran in a Thanksgiving race and she came in 3rd place in her age group. Natalie was chosen to be a soloist in a Christmas Santa Lucia assembly at school. Aidan, Brody, Tiffany and Grandma Margaret enjoyed the day at Bellwether Farm for the dedication service with Bishop Curry and Bishop Mark. All the Sunday school teachers received certificates for completing the Safeguarding God's Children training on November 18, 2017.

Debbie Zimmerman
Co-Director of the Sunday School

CHURCH MOUSE TAILS

It was good to see Pat Newyear out and about. Even though it was just to a Vestry meeting but she did say they were the first regular people she had seen for a long time.

The good people of Grace will have the chance again this Christmas to help give a good Christmas to a family in need. The Christmas tree is set up and has tags with a name and item to buy and return.

The Sunday School children will be baking cookies and hosting the Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 10.

The Evangelism committee will be taking Christmas cookies to the five 12-step groups that meet at Grace. And I will be there to give them a taste and get back to you.

Just heard that the Davis' daughter Jill and husband, will make them grandparents again in June.

There was a wonderful article about Grace Church and "Little Feet" in the December 3 News-Herald. Good for us.

Moonshine (James' dog) was up to visit and played with Nik's toys. I'm gonna tell!

Nik (the Cat) and I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. And, now for my long winter's nap.



Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival



The 55th Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival
Saturday, December 30th, 2017
3pm & 5:30pm

At Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Cleveland
Join us in celebrating the 55th presentation year of this one hour Christmas festival done with an Elizabethan slant. Celebrate the Light of Christ coming into the world, through music, scent, color, and pageantry. The presentations last about an hour, and are non-ticketed. A free will donation is taken at each presentation." Positions still open for costumed participants, and support staff.

**follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come

**It was acclaimed by all –
The Best Clambake Ever!**



The Ivey's and Mother Rose Anne
enjoying the clambake

Fall Parrish Stewardship Kick-off Luncheon



First we ate! And ate!



David Zimmerman
Leading the meeting



Karen Greer, Fr. Greer and Dave Zimmerman
Too busy eating to talk



Laura Hnat
Laura is Chief Development Officer from the
Diocese, and shared her thoughts with
us on pledging. She said "how we determine
what our pledge is to be is much more important
than the dollar amount".



Walt Iliff, James Velez and Ken Schutt
Outstanding Cooks Award!

We Are Thankful!



Jeanne Schupp and Kathy Hill
did a beautiful job with the arrangement



Tiffany Parks
Discussing the Currency of Relationship

***"All things come of Thee oh Lord
and of Thine own have we given Thee."***

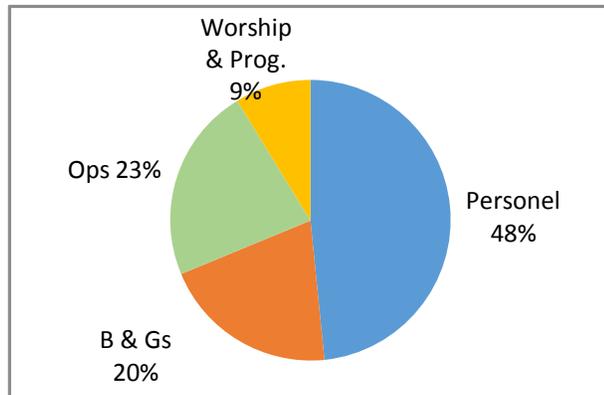
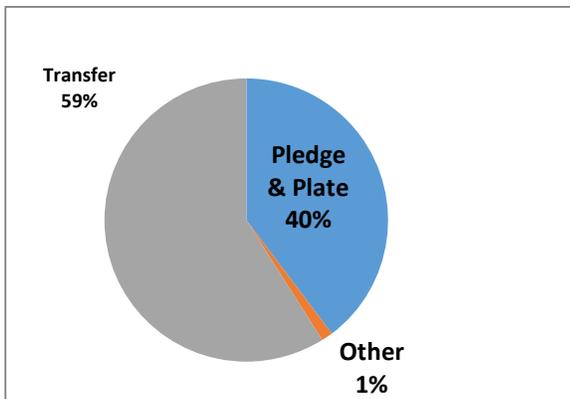
Operating Fund Interim Report -- thru end of October 2017

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledge and Plate Contributions	\$74,100.55	\$70,532.00	\$3,568.55
Other Income	\$2,392.00	\$3,937.50	-\$1,545.50
Transfer from Grace Woods Ca	\$110,000.00	\$114,558.30	-\$4,558.30
Total Income	\$186,492.55	\$189,027.80	-\$2,535.25

Expenses

Personel	\$91,126.64	\$92,612.50	-\$1,485.86
Buildings and Grounds	\$38,254.66	\$32,106.60	\$6,148.06
Operations	\$42,466.72	\$43,216.70	-\$749.98
Worship and Programs	\$16,437.38	\$17,404.20	-\$966.82
Total Expenses	\$188,285.40	\$185,340.00	\$2,945.40
Excess/Deficit	-\$1,792.85	\$3,687.80	-\$5,480.65

Expenses



Treasurer's Report

Our expenses to date are in line .

Harry Dodds, Treasurer

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Willoughby, OH 44094
440-942-1015

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Dated material
Please deliver by December 1, 2017

December 3
The First Sunday of Advent

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

December 10
The Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 17
The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24
Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 31
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3
Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18