

The PACE is published by

Grace Episcopal Church

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Web Site

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"Like us on Facebook"

Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Children's Christian Education

Sunday School

Team teaching by:

Bobbin Davis

Phil Davis

April Frazier

Lynn Kramp

Kristin Ludvik

Cathy Nash

Debbie Zimmerman

Co-Directors

Cathy Nash &

Debbie Zimmerman

We are disciples of Jesus:
helping one another be the
hands and feet of Christ by
sharing God's love with the
world.

Deadline for next *Pace* is
Sunday, January 12, 2020



The *Pace* of Grace

December 2019

From the Rector:



I know I say it almost every month, however, every month it appears to be the truth: Where has the time gone and how did this month get here so fast? As I write this we are preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving and looking forward three days later to the start of our new liturgical year. It's also the beginning of Advent, our time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus.

While the world around us immerses itself in commercialism and the accompanying frenzy, we Episcopalians, we Christians are called to a time of preparing the way of the Lord preparing our hearts and minds to be ready for the coming of God's Kingdom in its fullness here on earth. It would appear that we walk in two worlds during this time – the time of preparation and anticipation and the world of preparing for what the secular world has defined as Christmas. Challenges abound!

One of the challenges is finding ways to prioritize our time with and for God in order to prepare our hearts to receive our Savior fully and completely. I would encourage you to prioritize attendance at services and to spend time each day in prayer and meditation. This prayer and meditation does not have to be hours long. A few minutes a day will keep our spirits focused on Jesus. If you need a form or format, I would recommend the daily meditations made available through the diocese. Please see the weekly e-bulletin which states:

"The 2019 Advent Meditations will be sent out every morning during advent and will also be posted on the Diocesan social media. This year's devotions are #AdventWord from the Virginia Theological Seminary. It can also be found on Twitter @AdventWord, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AdventWordOrg/>.

The Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) introduces this program thus: "For the sixth year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online advent calendar. Virginia Theological Seminary is offering 24 meditations and images during this holy season beginning Sunday, 1 December. Images and meditations can be experienced via the #AdventWord website and direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram and

CONTINUED inside

Officers and Rector

David Webster
Senior Warden

Cathy Nash
Junior Warden

Harry Dodds
Treasurer

Elizabeth Estep
Clerk

The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway,
Rector

Inside this Pace:

This & That

- *Next Month's Pace*
- *Outreach Team Updates*
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- *Stewardship Update*
- *Bring in Your Box Tops*
- *Vestry Highlights*

Clambake / Cornucopia

Young at Heart Christmas Open House

**Inserts: Dec. Calendar, Dec. Volunteer
Schedule, Jan. Calendar/Volunteer
Schedule**

Lessons / Readings

Looking Ahead



- **December 2**—150th Anniversary Team meeting, 3:00 pm; Buildings and Grounds, 5:45 pm.
- **December 3**—Evangelism, 6:00 pm; Outreach, 7:00 pm.
- **December 7**—Grace hosts special concert by the Garfield UMC Choir, 2:00 pm.
- **December 10**—Finance, 4:30 pm; Worship committee, 7:00 pm.
- **December 12**—Stewardship, 6:30 pm.
- **December 14**—“Young at Heart” Christmas Open House, 5-9:00 pm in the undercroft.
- **December 17**—Vestry, 7:00 pm.
- **December 18**—When Christmas Hurts service, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.
- **December 19**—Anna Sutterisch ordination, Trinity Cathedral, 6:30 pm.
- **December 21**—Paula Smith memorial service, 2:00 pm at the Abbey.
- **December 24**—Festive Christmas Eve Service with Seasonal Brass, 7:00 pm.
- **December 25**—“Come as You Are” Christmas Day service, 10:00 am.
- **December 29**—Morning Prayer, 8:00 am; Lessons and Carols service, 10:00 am.

From the Rector, continued

Twitter, and ASL videos via YouTube. This year, meditations will also be available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole via email and on www.adventword.org."

"AdventWord is an imaginative vehicle that enables a person to pause in this hectic season and focus afresh on the eternal and divine," says the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, dean and president of Virginia Theological Seminary. "It is a moment when you are lifted out of the mundane and invited to see what really matters. It is a contemporary devotional vehicle that uses social media in a deeply imaginative way. This initiative, spearheaded by Lifelong Learning at VTS, invites over 25,000 people to pause and engage in this prayer-filled and preparatory Advent season." Other options are available if you google advent resources episcopal, or advent meditations Episcopal. There are many to choose from and there is one out there that can meet your needs.

It is important to also recognize that for some of us, Christmas is not a pleasant time. In fact it can be hurtful or downright painful. We will be offering our annual "When Christmas Hurts" service twice this year. The service will be offered Wednesday December 18 at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. Please help us advertise this service by word of mouth. Invite anyone you think might benefit from attending and offer to bring them to the service. We have discussed before how so many people have stated that they have never been invited to church. It is in our power to fix that and hopefully bring some comfort to those who hurt at this time of year.

As an Advent people, let us pray together through this Advent season: "God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare Your room." (Jim Friedrich)

- M. Rose Anne+

The Next Pace will be a double issue

Due to the heavy Christmas/end-of-year workload, we will once again combine the January and February issues of the *Pace* newsletter. Articles for our next issue will be due Sunday, January 12. In the meantime, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

OUTREACH TEAM UPDATES

Little Feet Update: We had a very successful shoe shopping event this year at JCPenney. A total of 88 children received new shoes or boots that they chose, with mom and dad's help of course. Again, many thanks to all of you who participated and made such a difference with your kindness and generosity.

LCCN Update: The Lake County Community Network Dine-to-Donate fundraiser at Baker's Square on October 21 raised \$406. Thanks all who helped make this possible! Another Dine-to-Donate fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 5, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 7880 Mentor Ave. in Mentor.

Giving Tree: Grace will have a Giving Tree again this year. Scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, and kids' underwear and socks, etc. will be collected again this year. The items will be divided among the 4 schools who participated in Little Feet. There will also be a basket for pet gifts.

McKinley Update: McKinley Community Outreach Center provided the name of a family for our Christmas Wishes outreach. We are blessed to be able to provide gifts, candy and a holiday food basket for the 6 children, mom and dad.

Pasta for Little Feet: Joyce Hoste graciously offered to make her pastas for sale at church and to give part of her proceeds to Little Feet. The orders are due by December 1 and the pick-up date is December 22. You can pick up your pasta at church. Thank you Joyce.

Ice Cream for Girl Scouts: We provided ice cream to the Girl Scouts to thank them for their participation in the McKinley meals. They were so great in playing games with the guests and helping them carry their plates to their tables. Nicely done! Kathy Ivey made sure the girls got their treat at their November meeting. Something similar will be done for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, as they did an awesome job helping as well. It's so great to see our young people reach out to help others. Kudos to them all!

Next Meeting: Our next Outreach team meeting is scheduled for December 3 at 7:00. Please join us!

- Kathy Hill and Kathy Ivey, co-chairs

EVANGELISM UPDATES

Christmas Cookies: Once again this year Grace is delivering Christmas cookies to our 12-step groups. Make an extra batch while you are baking and bring them to the church office starting December 1. Phil and Bobbin Davis will be plating and delivering them. They ask that they be homemade and preferably festive. No nuts please.

Friends of Recovery: David Anthony presented information on Friends of Recovery on November 10. If you have any ideas about how you would like us to help out, please let Evangelism or Outreach know so that we can discuss it at our December meetings.

Christmas Card list, updated Directories: Phil has been distributing directories to parishioners who were not here when our most recent directory was published last year. We will be getting an updated list of new parishioners to everyone the first part of December so that you can update your Christmas card list. Plans are also being made to update photos of new parishioners and those missing from the directory.

December meeting: The December Evangelism meeting will be a work party to assemble Christmas bags to be given out Christmas Eve. Join us at 6:00 pm December 2 to help us out.

- Peggy Burkacki

KIDS CORNER

Updates from our Sunday Schoolers:

- **Marshall** is in second grade at Edison Elementary School. His mom also went to school there. He has an ant farm. He wants to be an inventor when he grows up. He received a Bobcat badge in Cub Scouts and his pack helped serve at the last McKinley dinner.
- **Maggie** is so excited to be traveling to Chicago with her Dad for Thanksgiving. She is taking martial arts classes. She has two fish: Cupcake and Pushpop.

- **Amyah** has joined Cub Scouts. She is working on her "God and Me" religious emblem with Ms. Sharon.
- **Andrew and Alex** went camping at Firelands with their Cub Scout troop. They will be going camping at Beaumont with the Boy Scouts. At this camp over they get to meet and get to know the other Boy Scout troops and can choose which troop to join when they crossover to Boy Scouts. They are working on their "God and Family" religious emblem with Mr. Davis. Andrew and Alex both are wrestling through the Y program. Andrew is in his first year and Alex is in his second year of wrestling.

December Fun: The Sunday Schoolers are working on Christmas ornaments to pass out on Christmas Eve

Christmas Caroling: Join the Sunday School kids on **December 8 after the 10:00 service** to get ready for caroling. There will be pizza, beverages, and desserts in the undercroft while we warm up to make a joyful noise for the people at Grace Woods. We will begin caroling shortly after noon.

December 15—Sunday schoolers will decorate Christmas Cookies for coffee hour.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

- Debbie Zimmerman and the Sunday School Team

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Results of our 2020 Stewardship Campaign are in! We ended up for the second year in a row with over \$90,000 in our annual pledges. Forty-three pledges have been received for a total of \$90,774. This is down from last year only \$142. We have 6 new pledges. Sixteen families raised their pledges, 3 went down, and 22 stayed the same. Two people died since last year and we have two brand new pledgers. Seven people pledged last year, but did not pledge this year for various reasons including moving and reasons unknown. Well done, family of Grace! Your faith in God is well demonstrated by pledging/committing financially. Congratulations!

Continued...

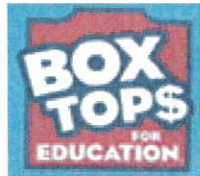
As is our custom, the Giving Envelopes with your assigned number (for tax purposes) will be set out on tables in the back of the church. Thank you to all who took the time to fill out a pledge card!

- The Stewardship Team

(Frank Burkacki, Sandy Gonzalez, Toni Swisher, Dave Zimmerman, The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway)

Bring in your Box Tops

There is a box on the Harvest Table to collect Box Tops for Education. We send these to the Lillian Valley School in Blackfoot, Idaho, a Native American school supported by the Episcopal Church. Lillian Valley is a non-profit K-5 Christian school that teaches academics while preserving Shoshone culture. These box tops are worth 10 cents each, but add up quickly as they are on quite a few items. Jeanne Schupp has been in charge of this project, and makes sure the box tops are counted and mailed to the school. Please help out and bring in your box tops!



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the November 19 Vestry Meeting:

2020 Budget

Housing Allowance: For IRS reasons, we need to provide a letter documenting the housing provided to Mother Rose Anne. She offered a Finance Resource Guide from the national church to the interested.

Report on Diocesan Convention

Mother Rose Anne was re-elected to the Diocesan Council. Noah Sutterisch and Mark Clark were elected to the Episcopal Community Services team. The Bishop's Address was particularly moving. Dave Webster spoke to the energy in the packed church on Friday night. A resolution was passed that each church will have a Child Safety Policy, which we will look into next month.

Senior Warden's Report

Long Range Planning: The Architectural Contract for the renovation project has been signed. Due to some logistical issues, the official signature date is November 14, 2019.

3 Phase Electric Project: This contract was also signed and is being sent to the electric company.

Vestry Nominations Committee Report: No candidates have accepted nomination yet.

Vestry meeting times in 2020: It's possible some candidates may be potentially available if we're not meeting on Tuesday.

Junior Warden's Report

Drainage on front wall: Phil is still looking for someone to address the issue.

Sign repair: Sign was damaged by mower. They have agreed to fully repair the sign: negotiations are underway.

Green Room wall: The wall is being cut out, and a meter for measuring moisture used.

Tree down: We still have firewood available at the rectory.

Siding for Rectory: Two bids have been submitted.

Parking lot lights: Replacing bulbs is in progress.

Rector's Report

License renewals: Licenses for Worship Leaders and Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors are due for renewal. The Safeguarding God's Children training is good through next year.

Formation Activities: Mother Rose Anne and Noah are working on inter-religious presentations and activities. Three people went on the Lutheran Church visit. Further plans are being developed.

Sunday School: Phil Davis is offering a class for older children on the first and third Sundays of each month.

150th Anniversary Celebration Updates:

- St Noel's has been reserved for a family-style dinner on Friday, May 15, 2020.
- The 150th Anniversary Team planned a field trip to Diocesan Archives November 21.
- The team intends to work on a Choir Evensong with NEMAC.
- May 17, 2020, we may do a service in the style of worship from the time of the founding of Grace.

Attendance: Sunday 10:00 am attendance has been down recently. Mother Rose Anne is asking for support in finding out why.

Evangelism

See Evangelism Updates elsewhere in this section.

Outreach

See Outreach Updates elsewhere in this section.

Worship

Attendance at Worship Committee meetings has been minimal. Mother Rose Anne may move the meeting to make it easier for some people to attend.

Next meeting

The next Vestry meeting will be December 17 at 7:00 pm.

Good Food and Good Times at the Annual Grace Clam Bake



A good time—and lots of good food—was had by all at the annual Grace Episcopal Church Clam Bake Nov. 2. Parishioners and guests enjoyed each other's company and feasted on clams, chicken, sweet potato, corn, and more. Special Thanks to Clam-Baker-in-Chief Walt Iliff, who organized the event and did the cooking, along with Ken Schutt and Jim Velez.



Cornucopia of Care 2019

Once again this year, Grace Parishioners collected and arranged a beautiful cornucopia of fresh vegetables and fruit to decorate the altar for our Harvest Service, November 24. Afterward, the food was donated to McKinley Community Outreach Center. Special thanks to Kathy Hill, Debbie Zimmerman, Jeanne Schupp, Judith Junda, Peggy Burkacki, and Thora



Scott, who collected and arranged the vegetables for the display, and delivered them to McKinley. Bless all of you, and all and all who contributed to the display!



Y^oung at Heart

Christmas
Celebration
and
Grace Open
House

*Please bring a
wrapped white
elephant gift.*



Join Us
Saturday
December 14th
5pm until 8pm

Undercroft

Bring a Christmas Dish
to Share

BYOB



Questions
See Kathy Ivey
901.497.0870

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Dated material
Please deliver by December 1, 2019

OR CURRENT
RESIDENT

READINGS FOR THE DAY

December 1
The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44
Psalm 122

December 8
The Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

December 15
The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
Canticle 15

December 22
The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

December 24/25
Christmas Eve/Day

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

December 29
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

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