

The *PACE* is published by

Grace Episcopal Church

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Web Site

<http://GraceWilloughby.org>



"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, February 14, 2020**



The *Pace* of Grace

January-February 2021

From the Rector:



The infamous year 2020 is in the rear-view mirror and I am holding high hopes for 2021, although it certainly seems to be taking its good time to set things right doesn't it? I hear so many folks talk about COVID fatigue and the toll it is taking on so many. Do you feel it? There are days where I certainly do have to struggle not to succumb to it. It would be so easy to just sit and do nothing – let the world pass by – and then I look around and see the many

blessings that have come our way and I remember the prayer that I have shared with you before from the New Zealand Prayer Book (p. 125): "God, give us work till our life shall end and life until our work is done." Such a simple prayer and yet so very profound. It has strengthened my spirit and my resolve every time I see it and say it, which is at least daily.

I am amazed each time I wander into our renovated space. What a thing of beauty it has become! I can visualize this space filled with people enjoying fellowship when we can gather again. I can visualize meetings and educational sessions taking place in the new conference room and the gathering space. I can visualize this space attracting folks from the community to gather here in the shelter of Grace Church, bringing the life of the community into our doors and the love and welcome of Christ to the community at large. I have faith that this will happen – perhaps not as soon as we would like, but it will happen.

We have been so blessed by those that God has brought to us to make this renovation happen. Each of the workers have been diligent and skilled, accommodating, and polite, and they even cleaned up after themselves! I am excited for you all to see the beautiful work they have done. While we are still worshipping and conducting our business online, if you happen to be out, please feel free to stop in and take a look. Since there are rarely more than one or two in the building at any given time, it is safe to come and look.

We will hold our Annual Meeting on February 7, after the 10:00 am worship service. There will not be a coffee hour that day. The meeting will be held virtually, via zoom only, since we are still not able to gather safely in person. Please plan to attend. We will still need a quorum to conduct business. It will be kept as short as possible to accomplish what needs to be done. The Annual Meeting booklet will be sent out ahead of time, by email and by snail

Continued inside

Officers and Rector

Kathy Hill, *Senior Warden*

Cathy Nash, *Junior Warden*

Harry Dodds, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Estep, *Clerk*

The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway,
Rector

Inside this *Pace*

Christmas at Grace (Below)

This & That: Outreach Team Updates, Evangelism Updates, Worship Updates,
Vestry Highlights

Grace Makes a Difference

Renovation Update

Inserts: January and February Calendars, Volunteer Schedules

Lessons / Readings

Christmas at Grace 2020

Even though we were unable to worship together in person, Grace “elves” still decorated the church for Christmas and gathered gifts for families in need. (For more on those gifts, please see this month’s Outreach Updates.)



From the Rector, continued

mail to those who do not have email. There are those who do not have internet connection and it is important that they be able to participate in the meeting as well, so I am asking that anyone without internet use the phone option to call in to the meeting. The church will pay any long-distance charges accrued. The Vestry and I have explored many options to include all and this appears to be the one that will work. Planning for this meeting has been complicated and intense. As you have read in the letter from your Senior Warden, because of the complexities and the limited technology we have available, the Vestry has presented a slate of candidates to fill open Vestry positions to be accepted by verbal acclamation at the meeting. This procedure was adopted after discussion with other parishes and the Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary/Chancellor, who reviewed our By-laws. It will be used this year only as a way to overcome the virtual limitations. Your Vestry spent great energy in prayer and discernment to adopt this procedure and I am deeply grateful to them for their dedication and commitment to Grace Church and their responsibility as your representatives.

I am equally grateful to you all as you have hung in there over the past year. You all have been incredibly faithful in supporting the Community of Grace with your prayers and your resources. Thank you for helping brighten the holidays for the families we adopted and one another through the Christmas card exchange. Thank you for your faithfulness in your financial support. You all are the hands and feet of Christ in this world and I am privileged to be with you on this journey.

- M. Rose Anne+

OUTREACH TEAM UPDATES from Kathy Hill and the Outreach Team

Holiday Outreach Efforts: We had a very successful Christmas Wishes outreach this year. Thanks to your generosity of gifts and money, two families—the children, moms and a grandmother—all had a very merry Christmas indeed.

In addition to the many beautifully Wrapped gifts, we were able to provide a bounty of holiday foods (which included a great many holiday goodies) and many additional nutritious items for each family. And thanks again to Joyce Hoste, who donated fresh homemade pasta for each family.

Our hat and scarf tree was covered from top to bottom with a variety of hats, scarves, masks, gloves and a number of other items that will keep so many warm and safe. A number of our Grace family donated bags of beautiful handmade items for the tree. There are even toys and food items for our furry friends. So many of you went above and beyond to provide extra gifts and food donations to ensure that these families were well taken care of for the holidays. It was just overwhelming! The spirit of the season was certainly abundant again this year. Many, many thanks to the loving hearts who made this possible.



Walt Iliff resurrected and set up the big tree for the hat and mitten tree in the church. Chris Burke set up and decorated a tree for the groups meeting downstairs. Debbie Zimmerman decorated the downstairs bulletin boards and windows downstairs. Some finishing touches were put on the tree. It all looked so festive!

Little Feet: Little Feet has been on hold but hopefully soon we can begin again to provide our kiddos with the footwear they need.

Friends of Recovery: Kathy Ivey reported that due to Dennis Anthony, Friends of Recovery, NEO Director having COVID all meetings and meals were stopped. We will keep them in prayer that their activities will resume soon and safely.

Christmas Card Exchange: Thanks to Walt and Kathy Iliff for continuing the Parish Christmas Card Exchange this year. It's very special, especially now that we are not able to be together just yet. This is such a wonderful tradition.

Next Meeting: Our next Outreach meeting is February 2, 2021, at 7 PM via Zoom. The March meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 7 PM via Zoom. All are welcome. Please stay safe and healthy. Peace and blessings to you all in this new year.

EVANGELISM TEAM UPDATES from Peggy Burkacki and the Evangelism Team

Christmas gifts for Groups: At our December meeting we decided to follow a suggestion from Jean Ockuly and set out our unused Forward Day by Day booklets for our 12-step groups. Phil made cards for the groups to go with the keychains and candy cane gifts we will put out for them.

Forbes House: Assorted supplies were given to Forbes House from Judith Junda and a friend, along with greeting cards that were collected from Grace.

Church Next: We learned Elizabeth will be meeting with other churches for ideas and to plan a group class of Church Next after the first of the year.

Mayor's Round Table: Mother Rose Anne attended the Mayor's Round Table on racial justice November 19 and reports that the group is discussing possible activities and discussions for the summer of 2021.

BOGO: We discussed BOGO (Buy One, Get One) promotions. We all see BOGO advertising all the time. Sometimes we may buy one of these items, but not need the free one. What a great opportunity to have something to give to charity while saving money. So next time you see a BOGO ad, think about buying one for yourself and giving the other to one of our charities.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on February 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM on Zoom. Please contact the office or Peggy for the link to the meeting if you would like to attend, all are welcome.

WORSHIP UPDATE from Kathy Hill and the Worship Committee

Altar Guild: Candles were put on the altar and poinsettias were placed on the altar in holders and stands so they can be in view for the Zoom and Facebook services. A crèche was placed on a table in front of the altar. We did not green the church this year.

Sunday School: We received positive feedback from the Christmas crafts sent to the children this year. Debbie Zimmerman sent 13 Christmas and Epiphany crafts to our kids from Grace. Four children from the McKinley Christmas Wishes family received the craft kits also. And in the spirit of true church fellowship, some of the crafts went to children and friends in the neighborhood, since there were extras. Cathy Nash identified some additional children who would enjoy the crafts also and crafts were sent to them as well. Thank you to Debbie and Cathy for making our kids feel so special.

Choir: Scott sent information from the Diocese to our choir members so that they could join the Diocesan virtual choir for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services if they chose to.

Advent: Nancy and Dennis Brothers repaired the broken advent wreath. Many thanks to Nancy for her patience and creativity.

Services:

- *When Christmas Hurts:* The service was held on Sunday, 12-20-20 at 4:00 p.m. There was It was a spoken service, without Spiritual Communion. A bowl with water for the dissolving paper was used to symbolically offer up our concerns and hurts to our healer.
- *Christmas Eve:* The service was held Thursday evening, 12-24-20 at 7:00 p.m. with music and Spiritual Communion. James took the Baby Jesus to the crèche. The star was in disrepair and was not used.
- *Christmas Day:* The service was held Friday morning, 12-25-20 at 10:00 with spoken service only and Spiritual Communion. The service was well-attended. Diocesan Services from Trinity were available on-line Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- *Sunday, December 27:* Instead of Lessons and Carols this year we had Morning Prayer without music. Elizabeth Estep led the service in Mother Rose Anne's absence. Harry Dodds presented the readings.
- *Epiphany:* Scott planned an Epiphany hymn for Sunday, January 3.
- *Wednesday, January 20:* This was the Inauguration. We were looking for special prayers or ideas to use in our Wednesday worship service to make the service special in observance of this important event.

Upcoming services:

- *Ash Wednesday:* February 17 is Ash Wednesday. The service will probably not be an in-person service yet nor will there be distribution of ashes. Further information will follow.
- *Lent:* Services will most likely be via Zoom and Facebook Live this year.

Other Discussion: We are pleased to welcome our new long-distance friends. Jo from the Columbus area joined our Wednesday morning worship group, Debra Baumgardner from Georgia

joins us for Sunday services, Coffee Hour, and Friday social hour and Erline Trsek worships with us on Sunday and joins us for coffee hour after service as well.

Next Meeting: Our next Worship Committee meeting will be February 11, 2021.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS *from the January 16, 2021 Vestry Meeting*

Finance Committee: The 2021 Grace Woods Capital Fund Budget was approved by acclamation.

Renovation Update/Report from Owners Representative Report (Andy): Work is getting very close to completion. Andy met with security company representative. We are waiting on some electrical parts to finish up with electrical. Should be done with final clean, etc., at end of January. We are going to clean out current utility closet to use as coat closet and store choir robes behind the stained glass. Also, we will add a short coat rack near the mail slots in the main room.

Parochial Report: Mother Rose Anne presented the Parochial Report. It was approved as presented.

Nominations Committee Final Report: Letters sent to those on the slate of nominees, and to those not on the slate.

Senior Warden's Report: After the Annual Meeting, new vestry will need to take the Safeguarding God's Children training.

Junior Warden's Report: No Buildings & Grounds meeting in January due to chairpersons illness. The next B&G meeting will be February 1.

Rector's Report: Winter Convocation will be held online this year, via Zoom in the evenings. Mark has sent the info to everyone along with the service bulletin this week. The Bishop will be giving a Diocesan-wide sermons for February 7 and 14, to be shared during Sunday service.

Technology Project: Dave Ivey will attend a Diocesan learning group and present to Grace.

Anti Racism: Previously mentioned activities are still in progress, both in the Diocesan and the city.

Stewardship: Hoping to have a State of Grace meeting later this year.

Evangelism and Outreach: Did not meet in January. Next meetings will be February 2.

Worship: See updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Executive session for personnel issues: Ray Sphatt tendered his resignation due to health. Kristen Ludvik was appointed to fill the unexpired portion of Ray's vestry term.

Other Business: Dorothy Ferguson is having email issues and needs info sent to her via snail mail.

Next meetings: Grace's 151st Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom February 7, 2021. The newly formed Vestry meets immediately following Annual Meeting and later in February, on a date and time decided by the new Vestry.

Grace Makes a Difference in Our Community

Here are just a few of the many thank-you notes we receive from those who benefit from the generosity of Grace Episcopal

Grace Episcopal Church
Attn: Mrs. Peggy Burkacki
36200 Ridge Road
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

Re: Forbes House Donation

Dear Peggy:

Thank you for valuing our service to the community generous donation of food item, clothing items, paper products and holiday greeting cards received entire team, survivors and the families we serve generosity.

We are so very grateful for the generosity of your church family and humbled by the support you've offered us! You have been a blessing to Forbes House, our team, and the survivors we serve! May God continue to guide and bless us all.

Thank
you.



Kathy
Stranica

Advocates at Forbes House are encouraging and empowering individuals and families every day to end the cycle of domestic violence. We could not offer safety, comfort, care, shelter or support if we did not have yours. Thank you for believing in us and the mission of Forbes House.

Sincerely,

Appreciate you so much Peggy!
We miss you.
Be well

December 6, 2020

Grace Episcopal Church
Attn: Harry Dodds
36200 Ridge Rd.
Willoughby, OH 44094-4161

Dear Mr. Dodds,

Please share with Grace Parishioners our appreciation upon receiving your grant of \$500 and your continued support of The St. James Lunch Program.

Covid-19 has hit our program and Lake County hard. We have continued feeding the hungry during the Coronavirus Epidemic and have been faced with rising cost to accommodate safety measures and take-home meal supplies as well as volunteer shortages. We are thankful for your donation which will help us continue our 36-year mission to feed the hungry.

Thank you for thinking of us during these difficult times.

With deepest gratitude,

Alice Griffith
Director, St James Lunch Program

Construction Update

By Dave Ivey

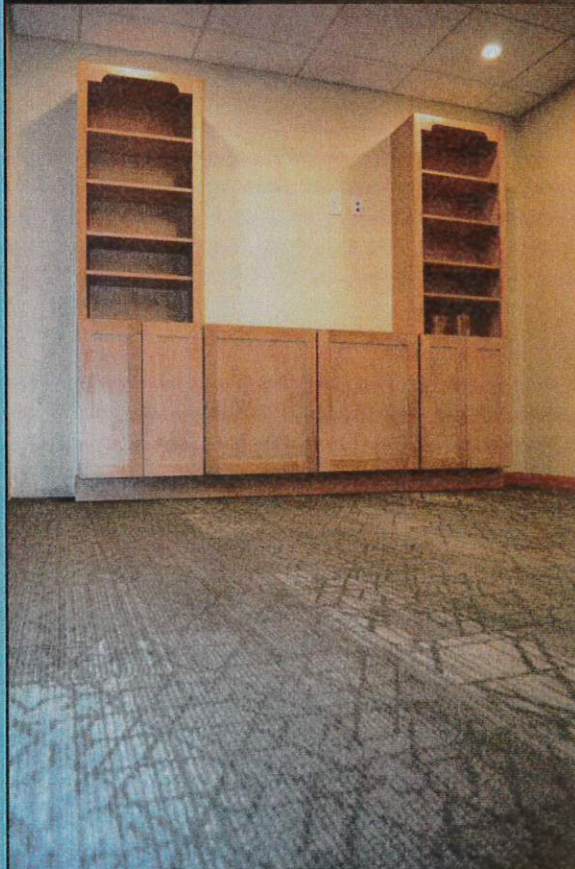
Renovations at Grace are almost complete. See for yourself!



Demo

Drywall

Finish





Entrance
Area Before
and After



Admin Office
Before and After





CHRISTMAS 2020

Greetings Grace Episcopal Church Members- This my family including daughter Sharon/Riley & Mason (which some of you will recognize). The picture also includes my husband Bill, our son John and wife Angie along and me/Erlene hiding behind tall Riley. Covid has created many hardships this year but it has also given me the chance to worship virtually from our home in Sandusky and get to know some of the Grace families during the Sunday zoom services.

Through this year of Covid, Sharon has been able to work from home and allowing the boys to attend school virtually also. Riley has completed all of the badge work required for the Eagle Rank and hopes to complete his project for the Outdoor Learning Center at Grant Elementary School by May. Mason has achieved scout rank and has already begun working on Eagle merit badges.

Our son John was laid off from his job dealing with Trade Shows due to Covid but Angie's job as a flight attendant for a private airline actually gained clients during the past year so they are managing. Angie primarily travels internationally and enjoys seeing other countries.

Bill and I are retired and doing well until last week when my husband tripped due to dizziness and fractured his ankle. This was fortunate because I took him to hospital emergency where they discovered he had developed a pulmonary embolism that caused a clot to reach his lungs! He is now in rehab and we hope he will be home before Christmas. I was appreciative of all the friends and family who sent prayers during this past week which gave me comfort knowing Bill was in God's hands as well as the good doctors.

We are happy to be accepted into the family of Grace Episcopal and I hope to meet more of you in the coming year.



In closing, remember that in the midst of all the isolation and change of the past year there are things for which we can all be grateful. This is the time to count your blessings and give thanks for the good things in our lives. Wishing you all good health and happiness in 2021!

Sincerely, Bill & Erlene Trsek



NAMI LAKE COUNTY, OH
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Join us !

Thursday, February 25th at 6:00 pm

"Building Resilience through Shared Experiences"

with Trish Rickard, M.Ed
and Chris Ohlemacher, M.Ed. from PEP Cleveland



NAMI Lake County, OH receives funding and support from the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board. To learn more, visit www.HelpThatWorks.us



NAMI Lake County is excited to share their new Caring for Our Community Speaker Series – “Building Resilience through Shared Experience.” In this session, we will address the shared trauma we all are experiencing because of our current global crisis. Considering the constant change and loss we’re all feeling, the need for connection, shared concern, understanding, and validation is greater than ever. Change is hard, and this degree of change is likely to trigger stress and trauma for all those sharing similar experiences; this makes self-care and healing of vital importance. This session will model and share the opportunity for reflection, while providing support through connection and sharing. Join us for a discussion on these topics and ideas, with an emphasis on self-regulation and self-care.

To register, you can scan the QR code on the flyer OR click here <https://bit.ly/39zldcX>



NAMI Lake County, OH



READINGS FOR THE DAY

February 7
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

February 14
The Last Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
Psalm 50:1-6

February 21
The First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15
Psalm 25:1-9

February 28
The Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38
Psalm 22:22-30