

The *PACE* is published by

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"Like us on Facebook"

Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Children's Christian Education

Sunday School

Team teaching by:
Bobbie Davis
Phil Davis
Lynn Kramp
Debbie Zimmerman

Co-Directors
Bobbie Davis &
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 the next *Pace* is
Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022**



The *Pace* of Grace

December 2021

From the Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway:



Happy New Year! I am actually not disoriented--it is the new year for the church. As you read this, it is officially Advent, the beginning of the new year in the Christian church. Advent, in some Christian denominations, is not a big deal. When I was a child, being raised in the Baptist church, I had no real awareness of this season called Advent. We decorated the Christmas tree Thanksgiving weekend, we sang Christmas carols beginning the same time and all focus was on the day the baby arrived.

What a difference a denomination makes! When I became an Episcopalian, I needed to learn about how the Episcopal and Anglican faith viewed the world. One of those learnings was about the significance of Advent. I find I am still learning.

We know that Advent is a time of waiting, of reflection and anticipation. We have the dual paths of anticipating the birth of the Christ Child and the second coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Episcopal Church Dictionary defines Advent as: "The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for 'coming.' The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ 'in power and glory.'" Advent is not a mini-Lent, where according to the Book of Common Prayer "all Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).

Advent is our time to look at our past, our present and our future as followers of Jesus. Our season of Advent is usually four weeks long, from the Sunday after Thanksgiving to Christmas. When we strictly adhere to Advent traditions, unlike my Baptist upbringing, we do not sing Christmas Carols, and, we don't put up decorations, until Christmas Eve. We do sing Advent hymns and put up our Advent wreaths, with our 5 candles, 3 purple or blue, one rose and the white center candle - the Christ Candle. The most frequent description of the three purple candles are to represent joy, peace and love, with the rose or Gaudete candle (lit on Gaudete Sunday or the third Sunday) representing joy - the joy of Christ coming into the world. There is no one explanation for the meaning of the wreath and the candles. The Lutherans and

Continued inside

Officers and Rector

Elizabeth Estep, *Senior Warden*
Mary Miragliotta, *Junior Warden*
Harry Dodds, *Treasurer*
Kathy Hill, *Clerk*
The Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway,
Rector

Inside this month's *Pace*

Christmas Services 2021 (Below)

This & That: Outreach Updates, Evangelism Updates, Harvest Table, Worship Updates, Prayer Shawl, Vestry Highlights

Little Feet Returns!

Christmas Cards (and Christmas Memes)

Grace Makes a Difference

Inserts: December Calendar, December Volunteer Schedule

Lessons / Readings

Christmas Services 2021



Make plans to worship with us this Christmas Season!

- **When Christmas Hurts Service**, Sunday, Dec.. 19 at 2 pm
- **Festive Christmas Eve Eucharist**, Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 pm
- **Contemplative "Come as You Are" Christmas Day Eucharist**, Saturday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 am
- **Lessons and Carols Service**, Sunday Dec. 26 at 10 am.

NOTE: One service only on Dec. 26.

Services offered in person and online.



Chris Burke (far right) and scouts from BSA Troop 185 planted new evergreen trees along that rear hill behind the church, and transplanted the small evergreen from the back garden closest to the undercroft entrance out to the side yard at the front of the church. Mr. Burke said he thinks we should dedicate the tree to the late Mr. Ken Hughes and hang musical instrument ornaments on it this holiday season. The scouts (pictured from left to right) were: Zachary Mog, Riley Gumto, Mason Gumto, and Mason Yelenosky.

From the Rector, continued

the Catholics of 16th century Germany are credited with its inception. The purpose of the Advent candles as a whole is to bring the light of Christ into the world and the purple to draw our attention to reflect on what the coming of Christ means to us as God's creation.

Perhaps this year of all years is the time to slow down and consider and reflect on how we are called to bring the light of Christ into our world, to stand for and demonstrate God's love in this angry world; how we are called to recognize and stand for social justice in our world, and to recognize that with God, there is always enough. God ensures that there is enough. It is up to us to be sure that enough is shared.

That is quite a lot to think about, isn't it? We can also find different ways to understand Advent and its call to us. The Advent Study we will do this year is authored by Amy-Jill Levine, a New Testament scholar who happens to be Jewish. AJ, as she is called, will walk us through Advent as viewed through a Jewish lens, helping us understand the history that abounds, supports and is intertwined with Christianity. I think this will be fascinating, will help the light of Christ shine brighter through our broadened understanding and will help us center in our past, present and future. I hope you will join in! I also pray this Advent blessing for each of you as we travel this Advent path together:

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin,

May he, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful hope and constant in love.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen

- Book of Occasional Services, p. 22

- M. Rose Anne+

A Note about the next *Pace* newsletter

Due to the effort involved in preparing for Christmas services this month and for the Annual meeting in early 2022, we will once again publish a combined January-February newsletter in February. The deadline for that edition will be Sunday, January 16. Pace contributors, have a Merry Christmas and enjoy a month off from writing articles! -Mark

OUTREACH UPDATES from Kathy Hill

McKinley Center: There will not be "Feed the Body, Feed the Soul" meals for the remainder of 2021. The McKinley Center has suggested that community churches prepare 20 to 25 to-go meals to be distributed during pantry hours on Monday evenings and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The Outreach team will consider participating in 2022.

Little Feet: Please see article elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Friends of Recovery: Kathy Ivey reported that work on the group's third home, for women and children, is still underway. Completion may take another 6-9 months.

Holiday Outreach:

- *Giving Tree:* Grace will once again put up a Giving Tree to fill with hats, gloves, scarves, and similar items. These will go to the schools that we serve through Little Feet. Items will be distributed to those in need. Please bring your items to fill the tree and please don't forget about our pets!
- There will also be tags on giving tree for Christmas gifts for an 18-year-old male survivor from Forbes House. Please take a tag to purchase a gift. The gifts need to be returned to the church, wrapped and labeled "To Survivor #14" by Dec. 15.
- *Stocking Stuffing:* We are stuffing stockings for all the children in the shelter. There is a list of suggestions for donations in the box. Use your imagination in filling these stockings. The children are between the ages of 2 and 10. Please have the gifts to the church by Dec. 15 so that we can deliver them to the shelter in time for Christmas.
- Holiday food baskets will be available for families at Christmas time as needed. If you know of any families in need of a Christmas dinner basket, please let the office know

Rummage Sale: Over \$300 was raised for Little Feet from our non-sale Rummage Sale. The Cleveland Furniture Bank picked up the majority of remaining furniture items. Walt is going to dispose of what is left.

Next meeting: Outreach meets again December 7 at 7:00 pm in person and via Zoom. All are welcome!

Special Thanks to BSA Troop 185, which donated two turkeys and some canned goods, Both were used to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to two families of four who requested assistance. Outreach team member's shopped for additional items to complete the menu and delivered the food as needed. As Mother Rose Anne said, "Thanks be to God for all of you and the Scouts, that we can be the neighbors God calls us to be. Well done, good and faithful servants!"

EVANGELISM UPDATES *from Peggy Burkacki*

Forbes House: The Evangelism team was notified that Forbes House suffered a COVID outbreak and was in quarantine. While they were in quarantine, they could receive no packages or donations. To make up for these lost donations, the Evangelism team is holding a Thanksgiving Drive to help replenish sanitary supplies, cleaning supplies, and food pantry items at Forbes House.

Coffee Hour: Everyone will be glad to know we will be bringing coffee back to coffee hour again!

Visitors: There have been four visitors to Grace lately and thanks to Kathy Hill and Debra Zimmerman welcome bread bags have been taken to them.

Christmas bags: Peggy will look into getting gifts to put into our Christmas bags to give out Christmas Eve. Spread the word to invite people you see to come to church!

Garden: The small pine tree has been transplanted to the front side of the building. Mary will check into protecting it for the winter. Chris Burke has generously volunteered to prepare the garden at the back entrance for spring planting.

Next meeting: Evangelism meets again December 7 at 6:00 pm. Please join us!

A personal note from Peggy Burkacki

Thanks to everyone who offered their support and prayers, and those who called or sent cards during my pre- and post-op surgery. A special thanks to those who brought food. Frank is especially grateful because it took a lot of the time and effort off him so he could get other things done. I hope Kathy Hill and Thora Scott know how grateful I am for all they did at coffee hour. Also I promise to make it up to Nancy Brothers as soon as I can to work on altar guild team with her. I am so glad I belong to such a blessed parish! - *Peggy*



Volunteers (from left to right) Jeanne Schupp, Kathy Hill, and Thora Scott pose with the beautiful Harvest Table cornucopia, full of fruit and vegetables donated by Grace parishioners. After Thanksgiving service, the food was donated to the McKinley Center and Forbes House.

WORSHIP UPDATES *from the November, 2021, Worship Committee Meeting*

Sunday School: Debbie Zimmerman ordered items to send to children at home for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Choir: Scott has the names of the Seasonal Brass musicians. He will try to contact them to participate in our Christmas service. The choir will do "Lift High the Cross" for Christ the King Sunday.

Upcoming Services:

- *Thanksgiving Day, 9:00 am:* Zoom only (anyone wanting to attend in person is welcome). James will do the tech support. Morning prayer only, no music and no Eucharist.
- *Advent Season:* Advent begins Nov. 28, color will be purple. The Advent wreath will be put up. We will look for readers to read and to light the Advent candles. The Advent bulletin is being prepared.
- *When Christmas Hurts Dec. 19, 2:00 pm:* We will do just as we have in the past. There will be no music. We will have communion, no eucharistic prayer. It will be a hybrid service. There will be an announcement in the *News-Herald*.
- *Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 7:00 pm:* Hopefully the Seasonal Brass can join us. There will be no children's choir. The service will be hybrid. Perhaps Chloe and Allie can join the choir that evening.
- *Christmas Day Dec. 25, 10:00 am:* Service will be a contemplative service, no music. There will be Eucharist.
- *The first Sunday after Christmas Dec. 26:* One service only at 10:00 am. No 8:00 am service. The 10:00 am service will be the Festival of Lessons and Carols, no Eucharist.
- *Wednesday, Dec. 29:* Both Rose Anne and Mark will be off. No Study group, eucharist or Bible study that day.

Greening of the Church: Will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, November 19. We need to be finished by 1:30 p.m. Rose Anne will put out a request for volunteers.

Schedules:

- Worship Committee meetings were changed to the 2nd Sunday of the month after the 10:00 service.
- Mother Rose Anne and Mark will be out of the office the week between Christmas and New Years.
-



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group completed a pew full of shawls to be donated to any who need them. Many thanks all our knitters!

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS from the November 21, 2021, Worship Committee Meeting

Treasurer's Report: We did not need to transfer any money out of the Grace Woods account in October. We are close to budget with our pledge payments. Wells Fargo funds rebounded.

Finance Committee:

- Budget for 2022 was discussed. The final budget will be presented at the annual meeting for approval. Vestry liaisons need to discuss their budget with their team for feedback.
- Following this meeting an Executive Session will be called to discuss a salary increase for Mother Rose Anne. She will be responsible for determining a budget for compensation for Mark's replacement.

Report on Foundation distribution of Foundation Funds:

- All Saints Parma Lutheran (Noah Sutterisch) \$500, Episcopal Migration Ministries \$1000.
- Special Olympics \$100, Outreach for Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets \$100.48

Senior Warden's Report:

- Jean Ockuly resigned from Vestry, effectively immediately for personal reasons. The Vestry decided to leave the seat open until elections for the new Vestry in February, 2022.
- Mother Rose Anne has begun working with The Rev. Albert Jennings to get the Mutual Ministry Review process started.
-

Vestry Liaisons and teams: Liaisons are to continue to reach out to the team leaders to assist as needed. Still working on Book of Grace SOPs.

Junior Warden's Report:

- Battery Back-up for TV's : Mary will order the batteries.
- Rear downspout repair : Adellos, came out to look at downspouts and gave a bid.
- Mary is trying to get contractors out here to look at masonry tuck point issues with the church.

Pat Newyear Comments from review of Vestry Manual (inserted per agenda review):

- Do we have goals for the church?
 - Elevator is a long-term goal.
 - To get more organized and write procedures to each area of operation and service at Grace, SOPs.
 - Mother Rose Anne feels that goals our goals may come out of the Mutual Ministry Review..
- Thanking workers and volunteers often.
 - Thank you gifts are provided to departing Vestry members at the end of their terms. Gifts also are provided to the teachers, and others. Per Pat, why wait a year? A number of suggestions were offered and will be considered and discussed further.

Rector's Report:

- *Anti-Racism training dates:* January 22, 23, Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and February 18,19 Friday and Saturday, 8:00 - 3:00 8-3:00. The cost of the training is covered by the Diocese. There is offline work that will need to be completed. (Go to dohio.org or see email newsletter.)

- *Scout lawsuit/bankruptcy*: We are a sponsoring Charter Organization. All the paperwork we have received to review and sign has been sent to Bill Powel at the Diocese.
- *Advent Program*: 10 books have been ordered. The study begins December 1 at 7:00 p.m., hybrid and will take the place of the regular bible study. The Wednesday morning study group will do the Advent study as well.
- *Christmas Schedule of Services*:
 - When Christmas Hurts Dec. 19, 2:00 pm. The service will be publicized. Flyers will be circulated.
 - Christmas Eve service 7:00 p.m.
 - Christmas Day service 10:00 a.m., hybrid service, come as you are, no music.
 - The Sunday after Christmas will be Lessons and Carols.
 - Epiphany - information to come.
 - Lenten Program - information to come.
- *Racial Justice conversations*: We are trying to determine the best way to invite everyone to these conversations. It needs to be understood that this is a way for us all to discuss and learn more about how different cultures are affected and about how we do things in the area of social justice.

Small Group Meetings: In process. These will gather two to four people at a time to talk about how we as Grace will move forward in the future.

Stewardship: Still needs a new leader. Thanks to Elizabeth and to Toni Swisher. Toni has been a big help with calling parishioners during this Stewardship campaign.

Fellowship: Still needs a new leader.

Evangelism, Outreach and Worship: Please see updates elsewhere in this *Pace*.

Pastoral Care Team: Emily Nash passed away. Funeral services were scheduled for Dec. 1.

Next meeting: The next Vestry meeting will be Dec. 26, 2021. This will be an abbreviated meeting.



"Little Feet" returns, bringing shoes (and joy) to local elementary schoolers



Johnnie and her mom (above) are all smiles after selecting a new pair of shoes, courtesy of Grace's Little Feet Ministry. Matthew, accompanied by his dad (Below left), also picked out new shoes. Every year we receive many thank-you letters (below right).



This year 28 elementary school children in the Willoughby-Eastlake School District picked out a new pair of shoes or boots just in time for winter, thanks to our Little Feet Ministry. This marked our sixth year of this ministry. We were grateful to resume Little Feet, which had to be canceled last year due to COVID.

Grace Church partners with area elementary schools to enable qualifying students to purchase new shoes for school at little or no cost. The school's counselors provide a list of children who are eligible to participate. The shoes are paid for using gift cards purchased by the Little Feet team (which raises money for the program throughout the year), aided by generous discounts from its retail partner, JCPenney.

Little Feet enables children to select their own new shoes or boots, which is always so much fun for the kids. Each year Grace church receives letters and cards from children and parents expressing their thanks. (See one such letter below.)

We were so blessed again this year with support from the Willoughby-Eastlake School Family Liaisons, JCPenney managers and staff, and the congregation and friends of Grace Episcopal Church. A very special thank you to those who gave of their time to be at the store on one or both shopping days to meet and greet the families who came to shop; Toni Swisher, Thora Scott, Mary Miragliotta, Elizabeth Estep, Deb Zimmerman, Lynn Kramp, Sandra Wesley, Gary Hill and Diana Zaverl, Family Liaison from Grant Elementary.

- Kathy Hill

To: Grace Episcopal Church,
I Logan would like
to Thank-you very much for
the shoes. I got at J.C. Penny's
From the "Little Feet Ministry"
They will keep my feet
warm this winter. Thank-you



Thank-you

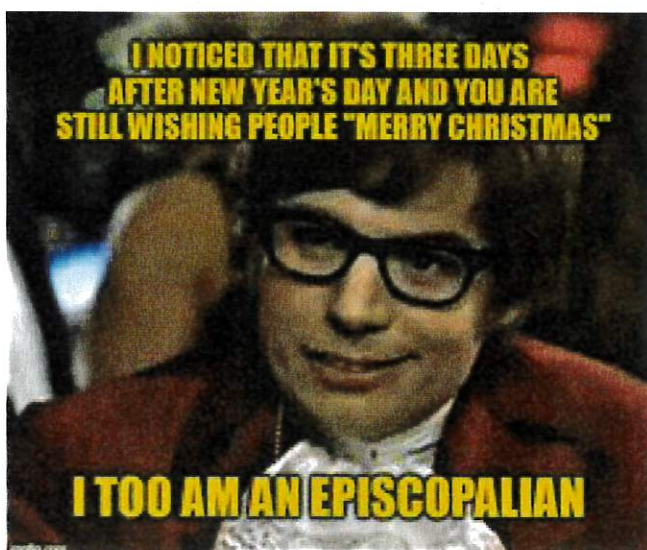
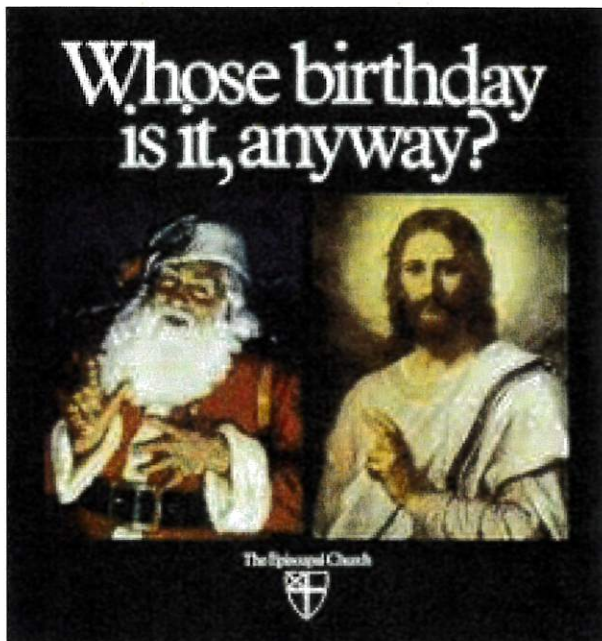
Christmas Cards ... and Christmas Memes!

Christmas Card Exchange

Walt and Kathy Iliff will be doing the Christmas card distribution for church members again this year. Put your Christmas cards on the table in main entrance in front of the windows by Tuesday, December 23. Cards will be sorted and ready to be picked up at the Christmas Eve service. If at all possible, please put cards in alphabetical order and place a rubber band around them, makes sorting so much easier.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Newyear!

- The Iliffs



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 Church and its members.

Dear Mother Roseann:

Thank you for valuing our service to the community. We monetary donation and food, paper, cleaning and hygiene August 27, 2021. Our entire team, survivors and the far appreciate your thoughtful generosity.

Advocates at Forbes House are encouraging and empoc families every day to end the cycle of domestic violence safety, comfort, care, shelter or support if we did not ha believing in us and the mission of Forbes House.

Sincerely,



Kathy D. Strancar
Executive Director

Thank You

Dear Rev. Rose Anne and Parish,
All of us at McKinley Outreach Center can't thank you enough for your generous financial donation.

We are so grateful that you believe in and support our work here.

Blessings to all of you
Beth Morgan
Director

May you be blessed for giving us the ability to shape these lives in our community.

"Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way."
Is. 57:14 Thank you for helping to remove their stumbling blocks.

Respectfully,



Judy Burr

Executive Director | director@projecthopeforthehomeless.org

God Bless
YOU!

FA
th
P

That's why
this brings a prayer,
while Thanksgiving Day
is here,
For a happy heart
and happy days
all through the coming year.

Happy Thanksgiving
With Love
Shene & Family

Above: We always receive thank-you letters from community programs the church supports, such as Forbes House, the McKinley Outreach Center, and Project Hope, among others.

Right: This Thanksgiving, the Outreach Team and BSA Troop 185 provided turkeys and the trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner to two families in need. We received a thank you card from one of them.

Below: Sometimes Mother Rose Anne is able to provide direct assistance to community members through her Discretionary Fund. Part of a thank-you letter is printed below. Please remember the Rector's Discretionary Fund when giving to Grace!

not have learned in the way that I needed to, and I would not be here today. So once more, with a joyful and vibrant soul, I thank you for supporting me during my times of financial need. The world is filled with inspiration and resources, it is simply up to us to seek them in order to receive them when we need to! May God shine upon you with blessings and lift you up during all of time, for they ALL belong to the Lord, as do we all!

Yours Truly, M



READINGS FOR THE DAY

December 5
The Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
Canticle 16

December 12
The Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18
Canticle 9

December 19
The Last Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
Canticle 15

December 24
The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

December 25
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah 62:6-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7)8-20
Psalm 97

December 26
The First Sunday after Christmas

Genesis 3:1-23
Genesis 22:15-18
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Isaiah 11:1-9
Luke 1:26-38
Luke 2:1-8
Luke 2:8-20
Luke 2:21-33
John 1:1-18