

The Sixth Annual Meeting of

# GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires



January 21, 2018  
Crissey Farm, 426 Stockbridge Road,  
Great Barrington, Massachusetts

## The Five Marks of Mission

A unifying commitment of The Anglican Communion  
and The Episcopal Church

The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ ...

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation  
and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Q. What is the mission of the church?

A. The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God  
and each other in Christ.

*The Book of Common Prayer, p. 855 (Catechism)*

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Sixth Annual Meeting - January 21, 2018

## AGENDA

### Call to order

### Opening Prayer (all say)

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, as we begin our sixth year together as Grace Church, hear our prayers. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

### Reflections on conversations from the tables.

### Old Business

Minutes of the 2017 Grace Church Annual Meeting (February 5, 2017).

### New Business of Grace Church

Vestry and Convention Delegate Nominations and Elections  
Presentation of the Ministry Budget of 2018

### Remarks from the Rector

### The Blessing

May God give you grace to never sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. (William S. Coffin)  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen

### The Dismissal

People's response "Thanks be to God."

**GRACE CHURCH**  
an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires  
Fifth Annual Meeting - January 21, 2018

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**GRACE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
FEBRUARY 5, 2017  
GRACE CHURCH at CRISSEY FARM

Rick Gore, Junior Warden, opened the meeting with thirty-three parishioners in attendance.

The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman led us in an opening prayer.

The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were accepted as written.

Election of new officers:

Mary Anne Grammer and Anne Andrews are our new Vestry members as the candidates were unanimously accepted. There were no nominations from the floor.

The presentation of the budget was next. The following items were discussed:

Gideon's Garden- amount designated to the garden

Trustees income-investment accounts are managed by the Trustees of the Diocese and we receive interest on those accounts. Treasurer, Sue Gore, answered questions regarding the budget, who is responsible for what, and explained what financial software is used. She also stated that she, Maria Mayorga, our secretary, and Steven Hasbrouck, our comptroller, are all responsible for the financial accounting of our church.

Remarks from Rev. Janet:

First, she thanked our congregation, our choir, the Altar Guild, the Welcome Team and Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors and Intercessors, and the Healing Ministers. She then spoke about our affiliations with various organizations in the community; Multi-Cultural Bridge, Gideon's Garden, and the Berkshire Immigration Center.

She asked the congregation to think about what other missions they would like to be involved with.

She also thanked Sue Gore for her work as our treasurer, Kathy Clausen for her devotion and commitment as our Senior Warden and Rick Gore as our Junior Warden, Virginia Vogel-Pollizzi as our Deacon and Lee Cheek for her musical contribution to our choir.

Ian Booton was thanked as an outgoing member of the Vestry.

Alice MacMullan, who recently passed away, was remembered.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M. after a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula H. Doyle, Vestry Clerk



## REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

My report each year is the opportunity to give thanks for all you are and all that you do in this community and in the world. This has not been an easy year in the larger community. We seem to be living in a time when anger and fear control much of our airspace resulting in too many people feeling that the good news is not intended for them. But through your generous spirit, your active and engaging hearts, we have offered another narrative. And that is that God is alive and at work in our world, that each of us are interconnected to one another as beloved children of God, and that together we can spread the hope of love and compassion that is truly the most powerful force in the world.

Every week as we gather to celebrate our gratitude for God's presence in our lives, we prepare a space that is open, welcoming and beautiful so that all who come here can experience God's love. We are blessed to worship in a space that faces out toward God's beautiful creation and is accessible for all. We are also blessed to have a space that can be transformed to accommodate our need to worship so when we gather with two other churches we can easily reorient ourselves toward a screen that carried the image of our Presiding Bishop from Springfield to the Berkshires. We have acquired a new sound system that provides better amplification and better clarity. We also have individual systems to support those who need more help to clearly hear the words of our worship. In the fall, we purchased a new Yamaha Clavinova piano/organ that has the rich sound of a much larger instrument and fills our space with glorious music. Working with our gifted musicians and Worship Committee, I strive to help each of us hear in a fresh way God's eternal word. I invite you to be creative with me so that Grace Church continues to be a place of welcome and transformation. I pray that we will continue to be open to God's lively work in our midst while observing how best to be present as we praise God.

Grace Church is active and engaged in the world. Gideon's Garden continues to grow and flourish. This year a Butterfly Garden was added in the hoop house so people visiting the garden could take time to rest in the awe of God's beauty. Many schoolchildren and families visited and enjoyed this wonderful space. In acknowledgment of the need for all that Gideon's Garden offers, Doreen Hutchinson and Kathy Clausen secured a Ministry Development Grant from the Diocese to support our study of how to best support the garden and the essential mentoring of the young people who work there. In the fall of 2017, Jake Pinkston was hired to conduct a series of interviews with all who currently or have worked in the garden to determine what is essential and what is needed to continue this ministry. In November, members of the Wisdom Outreach Committee, traveled to the Lawrence House, a part of the Episcopal Service Corps, to meet and discuss ideas with the interns who spend their year working in non-profit agencies that serve local communities. This exploration will continue this year.

Through our Gideon's Garden we have invited young people into the awe and wonder of God's creation and how they can play an essential role in healing creation and supporting those people who struggle to find healthy food. Through this work, we have become aware of the pain of our neighbors who are immigrants. In a time when our immigration system strains and breaks, our neighbors who are most exposed are faced with daily anxiety that affects the whole family, especially the children. This has led us to partner with the Berkshire Immigrant Center to provide counseling and advice for those seeking to gain legal status, Berkshire Interfaith Organizing whose training supports immigrant workers to understand their basic rights, and Hevreh in developing a network of agencies and places of worship that are willing to stand with those who are most vulnerable in these rising political storms.

Lee Food Pantry and the People's Food Pantry continue to serve more people whose paychecks do not extend to the end of the month and require our gifts to feed their families. The People's Pantry has found a new home at St. James Place that is close to the bus line and more accessible to people who do not have access to dependable transportation. Members of Grace Church serve in both pantries. We are grateful for the love and the support that comes from our community for this work. I am very grateful to walk with you as active participants in these ministries.

We also had great fun together. In March, Sey and I were finally able to host an Open House and Blessing at our new home in Great Barrington. Bishop Douglas Fisher joined in to offer the blessing. In June, we shared in the joy of the impending arrival of a child to Stacey Thomas with a wonderful baby shower. The following weekend we gathered to celebrate the

ordination of the Rev. Virginia Vogel-Polizzi to the priesthood. And finally, also in June, Grace Church hosted an Ice Cream Social and Book Share at Gideon's Garden for children from the community. Thank you to all who made these wonderful events happen.

In order to be of service in God's world, it is important that we continue to grow as disciples. It is good that we gather together to study the scriptures, to develop practices of prayer, and to sit in conversation with books, teachings, and movies that help us stretch and grow towards God's fullness. I invite you to make room to gather in community to strengthen these faith muscles in the coming year.

This year has been a time of growth and having to say good bye to essential people in our community. Ada Hastings, the beloved wife of George Raymond died this year. She was an active member of St. James Church, participating in the Books and Bread group, serving as a welcoming presence for everyone who visited, and supporting through her gifts and energy many opportunities for fellowship in the church. She is greatly missed by all who love her. May God's mercy be great for those who grieve.

We also had to say good bye to two people who served with great generosity in our community. The Rev. Don and Charlene Peet moved from their beloved Sandisfield to be closer to their family in Charlestown, Rhode Island. Each of us were loved into being with Don's ready laugh and generous encouragement. Charlene bathed us with her gentle spirit and deep courage. She spoke truth in love and shared with each of us her abiding faith in God. They attended every function, no matter the weather and enthusiastically supported many of the ministries of this church including the Healing Team, People's Pantry, and Books and Bread. We miss them and wish them every blessing. We hope that we will see them when they visit the Berkshires, but will hold them in our hearts always.

We welcomed four new babies into our church this year. Kaylyn Virginia Glover, daughter of Richard and Kendra Glover and Claire Amy Thomas and Mark Michael Thomas, children of Stacey Thomas and grandchildren of Linda White were baptized. William Andrew Happ, son of Michael Happ and Laura Vartanoff and grandson of Sue and Doug Happ received a blessing.

At the time of the Bishop's Visit in October, Stacey Thomas received the rite of Confirmation and Meredith Haider and Linda White were Received into the Episcopal Church. We rejoice in and welcome these dear friends.

I continue to learn and participate in the work of our Southern Berkshire community. I serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors of Construct, Inc. and a member of the St. James Board of Directors for Bostwick Gardens. I am spiritually fed by my colleagues in a Bible Study that meets weekly at the First Congregational Church in Stockbridge and through regular conversation over coffee with my clergy brothers, Sam Smith, Erik Karas, and Randy Wilburn. We regularly gather as a clergy group in the Berkshires, planning opportunities for working together to serve our communities. Our work includes learning about services and needs while praying for and walking alongside those who struggle with addiction. At the Diocesan level, I serve as a member of the Diocesan Council.

As your Rector, I daily give thanks for my opportunity to live and walk with you as God continues to nudge us toward fullness of life. I also listen with you as God calls us to newer and newer beginnings in worship, service, and devotion. I rejoice that filled with Christ's love, a sense of joy and compassion, and a generosity of spirit that continues to give from a place of abundance, we continue to go from this place into a world that so needs our hope and our good news. Please let me know of your longings to love and serve and to be loved. I am confident that God is leading us to where we can best accomplish his love for us all.

by the Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman, Rector





## REPORT FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It cannot be said too often that our most important work is following Jesus and following the example set for us by His followers. However, this work is not easy. It takes a community to support each other as we enter the wide, wild, world every day while striving to hold that deep peace in our hearts. Traversing the unsettling news, the unexpected grief, the undeserved angry words can all wear us down. And then, just in time, we gather on Sunday, or in-between and find our center once again. We have that steady through-line, that may become a life rope once in awhile, to keep us moving forward into God's love. This is the community of Grace.

To keep the structure of this community together we have the Vestry, a small band of folks who meet regularly to make sure we keep the lights on, so to speak. Fortunately, Grace also has a robust Finance Committee and a devoted Wisdom Group who offer guidance to the Vestry. Serving as Senior Warden, I love my bird's eye view of how all these pieces work together. To watch the dedication, attention to the mission, and profound faith of these leaders ensures that our community of Grace continues to move into God's future for us.

Although we sometimes miss the majesty and sacredness of a traditional church building, the freedom our current situation has given us has allowed us to continue to expand wider and wider into our local community. Vestry meetings contain much discussion of what we can be doing, not what we have to be fixing. This past year we began to delve into Greg Garrett's book, *My Church is NOT Dying*. I can say that we here at Grace are very much alive, very eager to continue to be creative about what it means to "be church", very willing to follow Jesus wherever we hear Him calling. Companions on this path make it all possible.

Have you heard the phrase, "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone"? This is what I think of as we push into new territory energized by the spirit to see the path Jesus has walked. Thank you to those who served on the Vestry this year; Anne Andrews, John Cheek, Paula Doyle, Rick Gore, Sue Gore, Mary Anne Grammer, and Sarah Sieber. Together with Janet we met almost monthly, attended Leadership Day at the Diocese, and had an incredibly inspiring Vestry Retreat. At the Retreat led by the Rev. Jenny Gregg, using the results of last year's surveys, we identified that ensuring the future of Gideon's Garden was a big billboard ahead on our path. That work is ongoing and you will be hearing more about it in 2018.

Again, I extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend a Vestry meeting. The date and time is always listed in the bulletin.

by Kathy Clausen, Senior Warden

## REPORT FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

This past year we added Wireless Microphones to the sound system at Crissey Farm. Janet and John Cheek have been working with Deacon Eric Elley about upgrading the sound system at Crissey Farm. Also with this equipment is a Hearing Impaired System. We encourage anyone who has a hard time hearing during the service to pick one up at the greeters table. We also installed an awning over the door at the office. This came out really nice and helps keep the rain off. With the graphics and our name on the front and the Episcopal Shield on the sides, visitors will be able to find us easier. Thanks to Janet, Kathy and Pennie for getting this done.

We had to replace our Air Conditioning System at the office. As part of the lease we are responsible for this. We received two bids and selected LePrevost's Plumbing and Heating to replace it.

For 2018 we are planning on removing the balance of stuff we still store at Stevens & Finnerty.

by Rick Gore, Junior Warden



## ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Bible Study continues to be central to our formation as disciples of Jesus Christ. Every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 PM we pray and study scripture together, closing with a service of Compline. This year we studied the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary and the Gospel according to Matthew. We have a committed and thoughtful group who gather and are always excited to welcome others who would like to add the study of scripture to their spiritual practices.

We also gather to read both fiction and non-fiction books in our Books and Bread Group that meets once a month in each other's homes. This year we read and discussed books to help us walk our faith as we try to understand our complex, beautiful, and broken world. We read about mass incarceration of the poor and minority communities, the impact of climate change on a rural town, and a memoir about growing up poor and the challenges faced by people who live with vanishing jobs and stagnant wages. The conversation was always engaging and rooted in our faith. It is a wonderful opportunity to listen, learn, and share through great literature as we walk together on this journey.

In Lent, we offered to the community several ways to enter into a time of reflection and study. Following worship for six weeks, a group gathered for a lunch of soup and bread and then discussion around Building a Community of Love. Through readings, video, music, poetry, journaling, and conversation we explored how through prayer, learning and action, we can grow as individuals and community in love for God, ourselves and others. From the Society of St. John the Evangelist and the Center for Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary came a six-week series on Five Marks of Love. Participants were invited to sign up to watch daily videos on their personal computers and reflect on the questions posed. Daily Lenten Meditations were found in the booklet from Episcopal Relief and Development.

In May, a group from Grace Church participated with other people in the Berkshire Corridor in Toward the Beloved Community: Holy Conversations about Race. Led by Lee Cheek, Alexizendria Link, and the Rev. Harvey Hill, and the Rev. Lisa Green. Meeting at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield we shared stories from scripture and from our lives to explore the church's complex history around racial justice and reconciliation. The day included prayer, presentations, small group discussion, videos, and concluded with Holy Eucharist.

Episcopal 101 was offered in September to those who were new to the Episcopal Church and those who had been Episcopalians since childhood. We discussed our beginnings and our history, church organization and governance, core beliefs, and why liturgy is so important. It was a time of good conversation and excellent questions around what it means to be an Episcopalian today.

Safe Church Training was held at the Grace Church Office in September. Led by the Rev. Janet Zimmerman, fourteen people attended and received certification. Churches attending included Grace Church, All Saint's Church in North Adams, and St. John's in Williamstown. Anyone who volunteers to work with children, youth, and our elders is required to receive this training every three years.

In support of individuals, families, and service agencies battling the opioid crisis, members of the Grace Church community attended a training to learn about and administer Naloxone, or Narcan. Naloxone is a medication that can save the life of someone experiencing a drug overdose. The training was offered by Sarah DeJesus of Tapestry Health in North Adams and Pittsfield and was held at Trinity Church in Lenox. Following the training, Grace now has this medication at the office for use in an emergency.

Throughout the year we offered opportunities for reading, study, and conversation as we become followers of Jesus Christ and witnesses to God's love.

by the Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman, Rector



## ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild Teams of Sarah Sieber, Margaret Layton, Cathy Haywood, Lynn Walker, Ed Hutchinson, Elizabeth Holland, Viola Bagnaschi, Linda White and Susan Happ continue to make sure the Altar is set up each Sunday. Pat Edelstein continues to offer to do laundry the linens. Setup is challenging at times but very rewarding. New members are always needed and welcome. If anyone would like to just fill in as needed and not commit to one Sunday a month, that would be wonderful.

I thank everyone for their commitment.

by Debbie Holmes

## BOOKS & BREAD

The grid below captures all the important information for the 2017 year. As shown, we met to discuss books on eight occasions with a meeting on January 18 devoted to planning. Five of the eight meetings involved dinners and started at 6:00 pm. The other three meetings started at 7:00 pm with the food restricted to appetizers and desserts (A&D). Whether the meeting was “long form”, beginning at 6:00 pm, or “short form”, beginning at 7:00 pm, was determined by the host. Discussion at all meetings began at 7:45 pm which allowed enough time for social interaction before the start of discussion. All meetings ended promptly at 9:00 pm. Attendance is guesstimated to have averaged in the 10-12 range for the eight meetings.

by George Raymond

Date	Book Title	Author	Pages	Host and/or Venue	Discussion Leader	Start Time	Food
February 8	<i>Embers</i>	Sandor Marai	224	Cobden	George Raymond	7:00 pm	A&D
March 8	<i>Just Mercy</i>	Bryan Stevenson	336	Zimmerman	Lee Cheek	6:00 pm	Dinner
April 19	<i>Commonwealth</i>	Anne Patchett	322	Katz	Ginny Fletchert	6:00 pm	Dinner
May 10	<i>The Locust and the Bird</i>	Hanan al-Shaykh	340	Garretson	Monique Kirchoff	6:00 pm	Dinner
June 14	<i>Flight Behavior</i>	Barbara Kingsolver	436	Kirchoff	Frank Garretson	6:00 pm	Dinner
September 13	<i>Beyond Beautiful Tomorrows: Life Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity</i>	Katherine Boo	288	Peet	Sey Zimmerman	7:00 pm	A&D
October 11	<i>Age of Innocence</i>	Edith Wharton	306	Smith	Peter Kirchoff	7:00 pm	A&D
November 8	<i>Hillbilly Elegy: Memoir of a family and Culture in Crisis</i>	J.D. Vance	288	Fletcher & Raymond At Kimball Farms	Martha Katz	6:00 pm	Dinner

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School continues to be offered each Sunday using the Beulah Land curriculum. This includes prayers, a felt board story, and a craft activity. In addition, coloring pages are available at a table in the back of the church. Children also participate in the planting and weeding of Gideon's Garden and it is always a joy when some of the children from Taft Farms/Gideon's Garden join us.

by Dindy Anderson

## GIDEON'S GARDEN

2017 was a busy year for the garden. We continued to deliver fresh harvested produce to food pantries, Construct, Guthrie Center, MultiCultural Bridge, Community Health Program and helped support eight families who harvested vegetables from the garden each week for their own use.

An addition to the garden was a Butterfly House designed and constructed by our Youth Leader Kyle Gangell. The Butterfly House welcomed all to explore a variety of butterflies as well as the plants that create an appropriate habitat, especially for the Monarch butterfly. This is a wonderful educational project that will be continued in 2018.



Gideon's Garden and Butterfly House



Gideon's Garden Blessing

Gideon's Garden received a Feasibility and Sustainability Grant from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. The purpose of the grant was to conduct a survey, led by Jake Pinkston, to research what the community and those involved with the garden thought about Gideon's Garden service to the community and to our youth. Jake compiled information from numerous interviews. This information will be the basis of our continued research into next steps to ensure the future of Gideon's Garden.

We helped support MultiCultural Bridge's Summer Camp and hosted an ice cream social for all campers.

2018 will be our 10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY! God has been so good to us and to the youth we support in the garden. Look for more news about festivities for our 10th Year serving our community.

by Pennie Curry

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP

The Committee had two meetings this year. We gave a grant to Chris Clark for a Sacred Music Conference. We currently have an active applicant which will be processed in 2018.

by Doreen Hutchinson





## HEALING MINISTRY

Each Sunday during the administration of Holy Communion an opportunity for healing prayer is offered at a station in back of the congregation. One may come for healing for oneself or for another. Prayer is offered in the assurance of Christ's ever-present care and power of newness of life.

Members of the healing ministry are Pennie Curry, Don Peet, Charlene Peet, Elizabeth Holland, Kathy Clausen, Sue Happ, Sue Gore and Ted Cobden

by the Rev. Ted Cobden

## HOSPITALITY & COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour continues to be a joyful and welcoming time to connect with everyone, whether they are regular members, new to the congregation, or just visiting. We started the year with the birthday celebration of Grace Church and in November celebrated with a sad good-bye to long-time members, Don and Charlene Peet. Everyone continues to provide delicious and abundant food for everyone. Thank you to all of those who host this important part of our worship together. I am excited to announce that Debbie Holmes has agreed to be in charge of the on-going supplies needed for coffee hour. Welcome to the team, Debbie!

by Dindy Anderson

## LEE FOOD PANTRY

1/1/2017 Beginning Balance	\$17,267.88
Income: 2017 Donations	\$14,457.44
Expenses: Food Purchase	\$17,740.97
12/31/17 Ending Balance	\$13,984.35

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SERVED  
2017 .... 1589

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
2017 ..... 3990

The Lee Food Pantry continues to serve families and individuals and has done so for the past 26 years. Weekly volunteers from Grace Church, St. Paul's in Stockbridge, St. Mary's Church and the First Congregational Church of Lee and many other volunteers from our community help make this happen. We do not just serve residents of Lee but also Otis, Becket, Monterey, W. Stockbridge, Stockbridge, Tyringham and Lenox Dale.

In 2018 we will begin to contribute to a healthy snack program offered at Lee Elementary School for children unable to bring snacks. Also, they allow them to take snacks home for the weekend. We will be of financial help to this new program and teachers and staff will run and maintain that pantry. We continue to distribute diapers for the Berkshire County Diaper Project and pet food through Irie's Pet Pantry.

God is working through us, and I am so thankful for all at Grace Church and the people in our community who make this pantry a success.

by Susan Gore





## MEN'S GROUP

The purpose of the Grace Church Men's Group is to provide fellowship and to enrich the faith of all who participate. Although we do not meet every month, when we do meet, it usually on a Wednesday evening. Generally speaking, we meet at a residence from 6-9 for supper and discussion focused on specific topics. All men of the parish and their guests are invited. There are no attendance requirements or attendance expectations. Now and then someone can come to a particular meeting that interests him or he can become a "regular" by attending most all the meetings. At the evening meetings we average about 10 although there are about 20 on our mailing list. We meet at 6:00 pm for soft drinks, wine and cheese followed by supper. Our discussion begins at about 7:45 pm and we adjourn promptly at 9:00 pm.

During 2017, we had three meetings:

Date	Venue	Topic/Program	Presenter
February 15	Cheek	Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) "The High Road", a vision to create a long distance path in the Berkshires from town-to-town.	Tad Ames President and CEO
April 26	Cobden	Berkshire Taconic Foundation Foundation's survey of availability of social service in the region	Peter Taylor President
August 30*	Doyle*	Annual BBQ*	General Discussion

We feel God at work in our fellowship and care for one another. We are strengthened when we share our life stories and feel the support of the other men. This year we are once again thankful for the fellowship the Men's group provides.

If you would like to monitor the group's activities by being on the mailing list or would like to attend a particular evening meeting, please contact George Raymond (637-7224).

Committee: John Cheek, Ted Cobden, George Raymond, Sey Zimmerman

*\*Thanks to the generosity of Tom & Paula, the Annual BBQ has been held at the Doyle residence since 2011. But, on August 30, 2017, as we enjoyed our seventh BBQ in a row at that location, we learned that it would be our last because Tom & Paula would be selling the house in the Fall. We are looking for a new BBQ venue for 2018.*



Sunday Announcements

by George Raymond

## THIRD SUNDAY SUPPERS

Each month, parishioners are invited to join together on a Sunday evening at a local restaurant for some fellowship and dining. Since inception in May 2013, we have had 45 suppers at 23 different venues.



What we did in 2017:

Date	Dining Venue	Cuisine	Location
January 22, 2017	Shiro	Hibachi	Great Barrington
February 12	Cancelled, snow	-	-
March 19	Frankie's	Italian	Lenox
April 23	Dream Away Lodge	American	Becket
May 21	Fiesta	Mexican	Great Barrington
June 25	Cork 'N Hearth	American	Lee
July 16	Stockbridge Golf Club	American	Stockbridge
August 20	Aegean Breeze	Greek	Great Barrington
September 17	Koi	Chinese	Great Barrington
October 22	Morgan House		Lee
November 19	Public House, 20 Railroad Street	American	Great Barrington
December 17	Timothy's	Italian	Lee

It will be noted that, because of particular circumstances, the actual date of the event did not always fall on the third Sunday of the month. We try only to go to restaurants that will allow each participant to order off the menu and receive a separate check. There are restaurants that offer special prix fixe menus which ease any perceived problems with separate checks.

The program has been successful and apparently well received. The current intention is to have a supper during each of the months of 2018. The first supper of 2018 is scheduled to take place on Sunday, January 21 at The Brick House Pub.

by George Raymond

## TUESDAY'S CHILD NEWSLETTER

2017 was our fourth year of *Tuesday's Child*, having begun on January 22nd 2013. Every week an email is sent to a mailing list of just over 100.

Some statistics about our E-News:

### Opening

50% of the 103 people open our email and this is a very good percentage for not-for-profit and religious e-news letters.

51 % open TC on a mobile device so we may have to change the format as this number increases every year.

### Click Rate

The 'click rate', a measure of how many people click on links or articles, is about 25%, again, a very good statistic for not-for-profit and religious e-news letters. Most of the clicks are on the hymn of the week. Thanks to Lee Cheek for excellent choices of our choral section.

The second most popular 'click' is for the Third Sunday Supper restaurant's menu.

*Tuesday's Child* includes basic information including worship time, ROTA, lectionary and food donation for the coming

Sunday, upcoming events and other information, etc. Also included is a weekly depiction with art work of the coming Sunday's readings, and links to various church related web sites. One thing very popular again this year is a hymn. Links are included with directions to specific event's locations or for more information on particular topics.

The intent of *Tuesday's Child* is to be a simple but interesting and attractive newsletter for Grace members and other interested people.

This will be my last year doing *Tuesday's Child*. I plan to "retire" from editing July 1st. I will help educate whoever will take on this fun task.

by Elizabeth Holland

## WELCOMING & USHERING

Two or three members of the committee come early each Sunday to set up the welcoming table at the door with bulletins, programs, publications and name tags. Once the service is underway, they count how many are in attendance and take their seats with the rest of the congregation.

Loose plate collection is the next duty. The team brings up the plates to the altar, with a slip of paper bearing the number of attendees that morning. After the choir goes up for the Eucharist, the ushers let parishioners go up row by row, and receive the Eucharist after everyone else is done. After the service they pack up the contents of the welcoming table to be taken upstairs until the next week.

Serving on this committee is a wonderful way to greet newcomers and old friends right at the start, to make sure everyone is supplied with programs and a name tag, and to get the service off to a warm and friendly start. Members of the team are: Debbie Holmes, Viola Bagnaschi, Sally Brooke, Anne Andrews, Sue and Rick Gore, Doreen and Ed Hutchinson, George Raymond, Sarah Sieber and Marcia Doelman.

by Sally Brooke

## WISDOM GROUP

The committee met three times this year and went on one field trip.

Our 2017 goals were as follows:

1. Explore options for grant funding for Berkshire Immigrant Center.
2. Write grant for Congregation Ministry through the Diocesan Ministry Development Initiative grant.
3. Plan for transition of youth supervisor at Gideon's Garden by September 2017.
4. Continue to listen to the needs in our community and discern to respond.

We planned on authoring a grant for the Berkshire Immigrant Center. However, they were struggling operationally with key positions unfilled and a grant to work on establishing a board, a development position and a strategic plan. We agreed to support them with money to partially match their grant. They were overwhelmed with clients due to the Federal government's position on immigration. We decided to wait until there was more stability.

We did author a ministry development grant to look at the sustainability of Gideon's Garden and its youth volunteers. This came from the vestry retreat in early February. So, we took advantage of this opportunity, wrote a Diocesan grant and were given a \$2,500 grant to do a feasibility/sustainability study.

It was decided to bring Fox Riska on as the assistant to Kyle Gangell this Spring/Summer. Kyle decided to stay and the two





of them with Ryan Weir researched a Butterfly Garden which was built and implemented this summer of 2017.

We spent Spring/Summer working on our grant process. It was decided to ask Jake Pinkston to be our consultant to interview youth and mentors. We developed a list of people and organizations he should speak with. We developed questions he could use in his survey/interview. We received our consultant report and had a meeting focused on what the consultant learned: strengths and opportunities for improvement. This study continued with meetings of local guidance counselors and a field trip to Lawrence House in Amherst. The committee will discuss the learning in 2018. We also will evaluate the recommendation from the consultant and implement some of the ideas in 2018.

Other needs met in the community:

- Back to School Teen gift cards worth \$1,550 were distributed among Lee, Monument and Mount Everett High Schools
  - Christmas Teen gift cards. We received 30 gift cards allowing us to give 10 to each school system in our area: Lee, Monument and Mount Everett.
  - We supported the MultiCultural Bridge Summer Camp. There were 18 youth who were supported for 7 days of camp. We donated \$2,000 for the camp's operation.
  - The Mampong Baby Home\* coin donations equaled \$846.
- So, overall we continue to hear about needs and decide what we can do.

Goals for 2018:

1. Research a formal mentoring for Kyle.
2. Continue with our implementation of ideas given us to improve sustainability of Gideon's Garden.
3. Explore applying for a Year 2 Ministry Development grant for Gideon's Garden sustainability.
4. Continue to listen to community needs and discern what we can realistically do.

by Doreen Hutchinson

*\*In April 2017 the Mampong Babies Home celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Sadly, during this celebration our dear friend, Maggie Addai, who was the Superintendent of the Home, collapsed and died. She had given much of herself to the home, working there for 27 years. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The Rev. Hanna Ennin was recently appointed as the new Superintendent.*

## WORSHIP

On Sundays at 10:00 am we gather at Crissey Farm for a service of Holy Eucharist Rite II with Healing to worship God and join together to recommit ourselves to service in God's name in the world. This is the principle activity of the followers of Christ as it is in this time that we find renewal for our life and our work. Through beautiful music, ancient prayers, reading and reflection on Holy Scripture, and gathering at the table of thanksgiving to receive the bread and the wine we are made new and prepared once again to participate in the coming of God's kingdom here on earth. An important part of our time together in worship is the opportunity to receive prayers for healing. A group of faithful ministers, led by the Rev. Ted Cobden, listen to the particular petitions and offer prayers to strengthen and encourage those in need. In 2017, the Healing Team consisted of Ted Cobden, the Rev. Don Peet, Charlene Peet, Sue Gore, Pennie Curry, Kathy Clausen, Elizabeth Holland, and the Rev. Virginia Vogel-Polizzi. People who receive healing prayers find peace in this sacred practice.

On Thursdays at noon we offer a service of Holy Eucharist Rite I and Healing in our Grace Church Chapel. This is a less formal service where the homily includes information about holy men and holy women of the Episcopal Church who serve as examples of a life well lived in service to God.

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice that allows one to rest in the stillness and love of God. Every Thursday, we gather at 5:30 pm to pray, to reflect on our spiritual practice, and to share our challenges and joys in deepening our

relationship with God. It is a time of beauty, silence, and openness. Those who join reflect that it supports their ability to see God everywhere.

Before worship can be offered, there is much planning that takes place to insure that music, liturgy, prayers, and setting support our desire to turn our hearts to God and to be sent back into the world refreshed and renewed. Thanks to the prayerful and creative work of the Worship Committee: Chris Clark, Lee Cheek, John Cheek, Debbie Holmes, and Ed Hutchinson, each liturgical season is planned to allow us to experience anew God's activity in our lives.

We are particularly blessed at Grace Church with an exceptional group of devoted and gifted musicians. Each week they come early to practice and prepare hymns, anthems, chanting, and bells that not only support us, but allow us to pray through our singing. Thanks especially to Chris Clark, who plans our music and prepares the choir for our worship together, and Sara Keene and Lee Cheek, who serve as our keyboardist. Week after week we are blessed to receive the great gifts of John Cheek, Mary Anne and John Grammer, Dutch Pinkston, Annie Macheski, and in the summer and fall, Nancy Fishell, Howard Seip, and Fred Hollman, with an occasional visit from our beloved, Susan Gray. In addition to singing every Sunday morning, our choir also sang at The Easter Vigil. Chris prepared a large choir consisting of the members of three churches to celebrate our time together appreciating the preaching of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Lee Cheek graciously offered her keyboard gifts on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This year, thanks to the work of John and Lee and the generosity of our church, we have a new instrument, a Yamaha Clavinova piano/organ. The range of this instrument continues to be explored while it enriches our music, our singing, and our worship.



Pentecost



Baptism of Mark Thomas

Our Altar Guild arrives early to create a beautiful and welcoming space to offer worship. No matter where we gather, their love is evident. This devoted group includes Debbie Holmes, Viola Bagnaschi, Sue Happ, Cathy Haywood, Elizabeth Holland, Ed Hutchinson, Margaret Layton, Sarah Sieber, Lynn Walker, and Linda White. We are very grateful for Pam Drumm who serves as Altar Guild for our Thursday Eucharist.

Acolytes are essential in leading our worship. They offer final preparations before worship begins, lead us in procession, and assist at the altar during the Holy Eucharist. They also flew kites overhead for our Easter and Pentecost services. We are very grateful for the services of our acolytes: Kathy Clausen, Cathy Haywood, and Ed Hutchinson. After serving as acolyte and acolyte master for more than 30 years, Ed retired this year. We are very grateful for his love and service in teaching so many to beautifully lead our worship. Linda White and Peter Kirchoff will be joining us as acolytes in 2018. We pray that others will feel called to join this important ministry this year.

Chalice Bearers serve at the Altar and administer holy communion to our community. Thank you to Rick Gore, Elizabeth Holland, Ed Hutchinson, Dutch Pinkston, Lynn Walker, Viola Bagnaschi, and Kathy Clausen.

Lectors bring alive our readings from scripture every Sunday. Each week Dindy Anderson, Anne Andrews, Pat Carlson, Tom Doyle, and Sue Gore faithfully prepare so we may enter fully into the sacred text. Meredith Haider will join our team of lectors in 2018. Intercessors pray on behalf of the people. Thank you to John Cheek, Kathy Clausen, Tom Doyle, and Doreen Hutchinson for preparing a space for us to offer our petitions and thanksgivings to God.

Those who serve at the Welcome Table, are the first to offer hospitality in our community. By their welcome, people who enter know that they are in a place where grace is possible. We are grateful for the service of Anne Andrews, Viola Bagnaschi,



Sally Brooke, Marcia Doelman, Sue Gore, Rick Gore, Debbie Holmes, Doreen Hutchinson, Ed Hutchinson, and Sarah Sieber. Special worship services offered this year included two Ash Wednesdays services and a service for Good Friday at the Grace Chapel, Stations of the City on Good Friday where we offered public prayers for our community on the streets of Great Barrington, Easter Vigil with St. Paul's Stockbridge and Christ Trinity Sheffield, the Blessing and Planting of Gideon's Garden, Worship at Gideon's Garden and a Blessing of the Animals, a Public Prayer Service in Great Barrington for hope and healing for all who struggle with addiction, a joint service with two sister churches at Crissey Farm to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaching, and a Longest Night Service held at Grace Chapel to support those who face grief or despair at Christmastime. Each of these services invited the larger Berkshire community to participate. This year we will again offer opportunities for worship with our sister communities in Sheffield and Stockbridge.

Our Christmas Eve service at Taft Farms welcomed many to our service of simplicity and joy. This year, even with bitter cold and freezing rain, 85 people joined to celebrate the birth and the promise of Jesus in songs, prayers, and gathering at the Eucharist. Many of the people present were new to us and we pray that their spiritual lives were enriched. Thank you to Pennie Curry, Eriel Dominguez, and Diego Francisco for opening our service with the lighting of candles, Magali Davila who read in Spanish from Isaiah, and Dindy Anderson who led us in the Prayers of the People. Thank you to Rick Gore and Sey Zimmerman who welcomed people to our service and Kathy Clausen who served as acolyte. Thank you to Chris Clark, Courtney English, Courtney Clark, John and Lee Cheek who led us in singing the glorious Christmas hymns. Thank you also to Maria Mayorga who provides priceless assistance in translating our worship bulletin for this service.

Preachers who offered their voices to our worship this year include: The Rev. Virginia Vogel-Polizzi; Lee Cheek, licensed lay preacher; The Rev. Jim Burns, Mary Anne and John Grammer, The Rev. Canon Robert Edmunds, the Rev. Jane Ralph-Construct, Inc., The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman, Brooke Mead-Berkshire Immigrant Center, The Rev. Jenny Gregg-Cathedral of the Beloved, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and the Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Every time we gather to worship, we are grateful for the bulletins that allow us to fully participate in the service. We are very grateful for those who proofread the text and music each week. I am particularly grateful for the meticulous work of Maria Mayorga who helps me create a document that adds to our worship. Thank you also to Chris Clark who brings the bulletins to worship every Sunday.

by the Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

## YEAR ROUND STEWARDSHIP

The Committee met throughout the Fall to plan for the annual pledge season. As of this writing, 40 pledges have been made in the total of \$147,830. The Committee reached out to the congregation for the following individuals to share their reasons for being Grateful Givers:

Pennie Curry, Mary Anne Grammer, Rick Gore, Doreen Hutchinson, Don Peet

The Gratitude Moment, initiated by the Committee a few years ago, continues to be an integral part of the congregation's worship service.

The Committee misses the spiritual guidance of Bruce Rockwell, formerly on staff with the Diocese. In Memoriam, we miss but remain grateful for the many contributions of our late colleague, Nancy Cobden. The Committee is grateful for the spiritual guidance from the Rector, Janet Zimmerman.

The committee: Mimi Alford, Viola Bagnaschi, John Cheek, Tom Doyle, Mary Anne Grammer

by Tom Doyle

## LITURGICAL RITES CELEBRATED

Sunday/Saturday Night Holy Eucharist	53
Mid-Week Eucharist	45
Private Communion	20
Burial Service	3
Baptisms	3
Blessing of a Marriage	2
Garden Blessings	1
Animal Blessings	1

## SLATE OF OFFICERS, VESTRY MEMBERS, DIOCESAN DELEGATES

### OFFICERS

Senior Warden	Kathy Clausen (1 year)
Junior Warden	Rick Gore (1 year)
Treasurer	Sue Gore (1 year)
Clerk	Mary Anne Grammer (1 year)

### VESTRY - AT LARGE

Class of 2019	John Cheek
Class of 2020	Sarah Sieber
	Dindy Anderson
Class of 2021	Anne Andrews
	Dutch Pinkston

### DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Vestry Delegate	Rick Gore
Lay Delegate	Lee Cheek
Vestry Alternate	John Cheek
Lay Alternate	Doreen Hutchinson



Three Choirs at the Presiding Bishop Michael  
Curry Livestream Event





# TREASURER'S REPORT

		2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
<b>Income</b>				
	Weekly Collection			
	Pledge	\$ 145,934	\$ 153,939	\$ 151,530
	Loose Plate	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,436	\$ 1,500
	Special Offering	\$ 1,200	\$ 7,379	\$ 1,200
	Investment Income			
	Trustees	\$ 78,982	\$ 108,310	\$ 85,909
	Crane Trust	\$ 3,560	\$ 3,572	\$ 3,560
	Other		\$ -	
	Other Income			
	Flowers	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,680
	Gifts in Memory		\$ 5,044	
	Lenten Supper		\$ 320	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 232,576</b>	<b>\$ 282,080</b>	<b>\$ 245,379</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
	Worship			
	Flowers	\$ 1,350	\$ 620	\$ 1,680
	Liturgical Equipment	\$ 600	\$ 477	\$ 600
	Special Services Expense	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,959	\$ 2,000
	Music Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 188	\$ 200
	Piano maintenance		\$ -	
	Supply Musicians/Organists	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 800
	Supply Clergy	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,075	\$ 1,400
	Benevolence - Mission - Outreach			
	People's Pantry	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
	Lee Food Pantry	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Gideon's Garden	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,347	\$ 4,650
	Multicultural Bridge Initiative		\$ 7,388	
	Crane scholarships/grants	\$ 1,700	\$ 249	\$ 1,700
	Assessment for Common Ministry	\$ 21,056	\$ 21,056	\$ 24,281
	Wisdom Group	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	Clergy's Discretionary Fund	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800



		2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
	Christian Nurture			
	Adult Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 882	\$ 1,000
	Church School	\$ 150	\$ 30	\$ 150
	Vestry Formation	\$ 350	\$ 808	\$ 350
	Coffee Hour	\$ 300	\$ 299	\$ 300
	Special Receptions	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
	Greeters Table	\$ 250	\$ 221	\$ 250
	Office and Administration			
	General Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,312	\$ 1,000
	Postage and Box Rental	\$ 200	\$ 108	\$ 200
	Printing and Duplicating	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,828	\$ 3,500
	Advertising	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,180	\$ 2,000
	Web/Constant Contact Expenses	\$ 400	\$ 508	\$ 400
	Accounting Software	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,380	\$ 1,380
	Office Cleaning	\$ 840	\$ 1,155	\$ 910
	Rent, Utilities and Maintenance			
	Office Rental	\$ 18,400	\$ 18,400	\$ 19,200
	Crissey Farm Rental & Set-up	\$ 18,720	\$ 21,200	\$ 19,720
	Storage Rental	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
	Electric	\$ 1,440	\$ 1,821	\$ 1,800
	Gas	\$ 1,330	\$ 1,723	\$ 1,600
	Phone	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,341	\$ 2,600
	Insurance	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,045	\$ 1,747
	Personnel Expenses			
	Clergy & Staff Salary and Benefits	\$ 130,540	\$ 126,906	\$ 133,661
	Accountant Expense	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,056	\$ 1,800
	Keyboardist	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,400
	Clergy Sabatical	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 500
	Clergy Expense Reimbursement	\$ 1,300	\$ 766	\$ 1,000
	Sundries		\$ 26,112	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 232,576</b>	<b>\$ 262,690</b>	<b>\$ 245,379</b>
	<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,390</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



			2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
		Unbudgeted Income			
		Bequest		\$ 172,846	
		Grant Income		\$ 2,500	
		<b>Total Unbudgeted Income</b>		<b>\$ 175,346</b>	
		Unbudgeted Expense			
		General Trustees Fund Expense		\$ 50,000	
		Gideon's Garden Grant Expense		\$ 2,260	
		<b>Total Unbudgeted Expense</b>		<b>\$ 52,260</b>	
		<b>Net Unbudgeted</b>		<b>\$ 123,086</b>	
		Pass Through Income			
		Gideon's Garden		\$ 2,375	
		Hurricane Relief Fund Income		\$ 2,075	
		Lee Food Pantry		\$ 500	
		Change the Babies Pass Through Income		\$ 886	
		Teen Christmas Pass Through Income		\$ 215	
		UTO Pass Through Income		\$ 250	
		Rector's Discretionary Fund Income		\$ 1,000	
		<b>Total Pass Through Income</b>		<b>\$ 7,301</b>	
		Pass Through Expenses			
		Peoples' pantry pass through expense		\$ 99	
		Teen Christmas Pass Through Fund Expense		\$ 190	
		Hurricane Relief Fund Expense		\$ 2,075	
		UTO Pass Through Expense		\$ 250	
		Rector's Discretionary Fund Expense		\$ 1,000	
		Evensong/Epiphany Retreat Expense		\$ 186	
		<b>Total Pass Through Expense</b>		<b>\$ 3,800</b>	





BALANCE SHEET			
Assets		12/31/16	12/31/17
	Banking	\$ 101,359	\$ 74,691
	Trustees Account (3rd qtr figures)	\$ 2,000,459	\$ 2,337,020
	Total Assets	\$ 2,101,818	\$ 2,411,711
Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable/Next Year Pledge	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200
Fund Balances			
	Operational Funds	\$ 715,316	\$ 771,093
	Building Funds	\$ 1,154,762	\$ 1,221,465
	Mission Funds	\$ 117,820	\$ 120,836
	Memorial Funds	\$ 104,953	\$ 287,013
	Columbarium Funds	\$ 550	\$ 641
	Rector's Sabbatical	\$ 2,031	\$ 2,649
	Gideon's Garden	\$ 3,780	\$ 6,155
	Gideon's Garden Vehicle	\$ - 0	\$ - 0
	Congregational Development	\$ (500)	\$ (2,760)
	People's Pantry	\$ 99	\$ - 0
	Lee Pantry	\$ 315	\$ 815
	Teen Christmas	\$ 75	\$ 100
	Multicultural Bridge Pass Through	\$ 76	\$ 76
	Annie Ryder	\$ 20	\$ 20
	Change the Babies	\$ 1,521	\$ 2,408
	Total Funds	\$ 2,100,818	\$ 2,410,511
	Total Liabilites and Funds	\$ 2,101,818	\$ 2,411,711



Blessing of the Animals



# GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires



## GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Bishop of Western Massachusetts: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

## GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION

office: 67 State Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230

mail: PO Box 114, Great Barrington, MA 01230

phone: 413.644.0022 email: [office@graceberkshires.org](mailto:office@graceberkshires.org) web: [graceberkshires.org](http://graceberkshires.org)

fb: [facebook.com/GraceChurchEpiscopalCommunitySouthernBerkshires](https://facebook.com/GraceChurchEpiscopalCommunitySouthernBerkshires)

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