



The MESSENGER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lenten Edition, March/April, 2019

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Susan R. Ironside



Dear People of Grace,

When I visited cherished friends recently after not seeing them for a few months, their dogs greeted me as if my arrival was the most incredible thing to have happened in the history of the world.

"Oh, thank heavens you are back!" the dogs seemed to say. "We were worried you had left forever. You have been away too long,"

They carried on in a lavish fashion, making me feel like a rare, long-awaited and deeply desired companion. Much to my embarrassment, I had brought nothing for them. No treats. No bones. Nothing. I could only stoop down and pet them, and let them be near me. I could only let them welcome me in this robust fashion. All I could do was let them into my lap and gather them.

And it seemed to be enough for them.

Every year we are issued the same invitation on Ash Wednesday, "return to me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12)

Lent is our annual migration back to our true home, when we return to the watery womb of our baptism, where God claimed us forever.

And that may sound scary, but only if you think of God as some kind of scorekeeper who can't wait to tell you how much you have screwed up. Or if you think of a God who will be impressed if you surrender chocolate, and will decide not to smite you after all.

God is more like my friend's dogs who greeted me with such delight that they could barely contain themselves.

Lent is not a 40-day self-improvement strategy. It is a trip back home, where we have been long awaited and are deeply desired. Some people make this trip by giving something up, or setting some things aside, to clear their focus on the journey back home. Some embrace new ways of being mindful of God's presence.

As a community we gather for prayer more often. We put aside some of our beautiful things for a few weeks, replacing them with sparer things, so we can better focus on the journey back to the baptismal waters that will await us at the Great Vigil of Easter.

Every Lent we are invited to return to the God who loves us, not because we can fool God, but because we know we can't. Lent is not about changing God's mind about us, but about changing our minds about God. There are many ways to do that, some silly, some serious. Give something up. Take something on. The goal is the same: return to the One who has never stopped longing for you, and could never bear to give you up. You can come empty handed, even, and the greeting will still be the same, as if your arrival is the most incredible thing to have happened in the history of the world, God waiting to burst into your lap, declaring, "Thank heavens you are back! You have been away for too long!"

I am eager to mark the days of Lent together!

Faithfully yours,





PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Canon Michel Belt

While arriving much later than last year, it is still a bit hard to believe that Lent is once again on us! As I'm contemplating its arrival, I'm also stuck with my annual quandary: do I give up something for Lent; or, do I undertake doing something new for Lent. Both of these have their advantages, and of course, both their challenges.

Many of us have experienced the "giving up" side of this equation, that is the one many of us grew up with: giving up something we love (i.e., chocolate, alcohol, dessert, or even more appropriate today, the use of some electronic device). And more recently, some of us may have experienced the "adding on" side: reading a book instead of turning on the TV, working through some portion of the Bible, maybe writing a letter to a friend or family member instead of texting, or possibly even attending some service (i.e., Evening Prayer or Stations of the Cross) regularly.

Either option, taking on something "new" or giving up something, can feel at times like a punishment, and none of us like the thought of being punished, regardless of our age. We simply don't like the thought of being punished—even if we know we're wrong, but especially when we believe we really didn't do anything wrong!

But that's not really the point of what is most appropriately called "a Lenten discipline." Let's

consider the nuances of the word "discipline." It is somewhat unusual in that it can be either a noun or a verb. According to Merriam Webster, as a noun, the first definitions have to do with gaining "control," either by enforcing obedience or order, or creating an orderly conduct or pattern of behavior. It might be as simple as "self control," or "training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character." It can even indicate a field of study.

As a verb, its first definition is "to punish or penalize for the sake of enforcing obedience and perfecting moral character." Secondary meanings relate to training or developing by instruction or exercise (e.g., self-control). Or, to bring a group under control.

When I think of my parents—who I'll admit, occasionally did have to discipline my brother and me as children—I can't help but think of those times when their eyes were filled with tears, even as they exacted their punishment. So, I tend to focus more about the usage of "discipline" as the noun, rather than the verb. I think about how they encouraged us to practice our musical instruments, how they tried to focus on the reasons to study, and why homework should be completed before the TV could be turned on. I think how they encouraged us to use control with our treats, especially candy, ice cream or pop. Or undertaking the discipline (and

good manners) of writing thank you cards for gifts received. How they taught us to pray before meals, and even about asking to be excused from the table when the meal was over.

Although my brother and I frequently expressed our displeasure with these (and other) disciplines my parents enforced (usually with a loud, "Aw, Mom!" or "Do I have to, Dad?"), we knew in our hearts these things were for our own good, and the good of the family. These hardly qualified as punishment—they were designed to make us "better." And a Lenten discipline is likewise designed to make us better: better people, better citizens, better members of the world, and yes, better Christians.

For me, it honestly matters less whether you add something, or take something away for Lent. What matters is that you make a conscious decision (for only forty days—remember the six Sundays in Lent don't count; you can "drop" whatever you decide to do on Sundays!) to do something different than you normally would. To change your day-to-day ordering of life in some fashion. To bring some order, or different behavior, out of these forty days.

And at the end is Easter, a celebration of the ultimate gift given us by God; the promise of new life, lived more fully, and in closer relationship to God, and humankind!

Lenten Recitals

Our Friday Lenten Organ Recitals have been a Madison tradition since the 1950s, founded by my predecessor, Helen E.J. Thomas. They begin with a brief five-minute Noonday Prayer service at 12:15, followed by half-hour of music. There are several exciting guests this year. The concerts are free and open to the public. The organ console and pedals will be projected onto the wall for better audience viewing. Lunch by Slamwich Scratch Kitchen is available after each performance for just \$7, and includes sliders, salad, drinks and dessert. Stay and join us!

Our first recital on **March 8** is the annual visit from the music students of Pingry School accompanied by Mother Susan's husband Andrew Moore.

March 15 Christopher Jennings plays American composers.

March 22 Jeff Clearman presents a potpourri of German, French, English, and American Lenten music.

March 29 will be our annual Helen E.J. Thomas Memorial Concert, presented by Patricia Ruggles and Anne Matlack, organ. The concert will include alto arias from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, featuring guest instrumentalists.

April 5 Kevin Davis from Calvary Church, Summit will be our guest artist.

April 12 To close out the season, Dr. Anne will present a family-friendly *Meet-the-Organ* program for Madison school vacation.

Growth Opportunities for Everyone

On Sundays in March, Grace will be offering time after the 10 am service for all of us to deepen our understanding of our faith. Grab a cup of coffee at Coffee Hour and then carve out time after worship to learn and grow with your community.

Children meet with Dr. Elias in the Children's Chapel.

High School Students meet with Fr. Michel in the Sr. High Room.

Adults meet with Mother Susan in Nieman Hall for a conversation about the Episcopal church in Nieman Hall. These sessions are open to everyone but are especially helpful for anyone seeking adult confirmation, an affirmation of faith, or reception in the Episcopal Church.

**These sessions will be focused, joyful, and under an hour.
Come learn together!**

Ash Wednesday

First Day of Lent

Wednesday, March 6

9:30 am Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite I

12:15 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite II, organ

5:30 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite I

7:00 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite II, choirs

**Children's Programs at
5:30 and 7:00 pm**



On Ash Wednesday, March 6, Grace will offer *Ashes to Go* from 6:30-7:30 am at the Madison Train Station on the NY-bound side.

Many of God's people are involved in their daily lives: rushing to work, to pick up the kids, to get to the appointments and chores of our very busy lives. Look for us if you are at the train station and can't make church that day.

Wednesdays in Lent

Stations of the Cross

March 13-April 10, 6:00 pm

The service for Veneration of the Stations is a half-hour service on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent where congregants follow the liturgy by walking from one place to another throughout the church—candles are lighted in each of the window bays. After the final prayer, participants can stand in the front of the nave and see it truly kindled and enlivened by the flickering of their lights.

Please join us for this experience.



Thursdays in Lent

The choir will again be offering

Chanted Compline

March 7—April 11

8:45-9:00 pm.

Come and experience it!
Fifteen minutes of candlelight
calm to end your day.



HOLY WEEK

Join us in the Journey!

PALM SUNDAY, April 14

Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

Worship services at 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

The 10:00 am music will feature our youngest singers in *Little Grey Donkey*, and works by Leighton and Pergolesi, with an African song during the distribution of palms.

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 15

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite I

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 16

9:00 am Morning Prayer, Rite I

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 17

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Healing Prayer

5:30 pm Evening Prayer, Rite I

7:30 pm Tenebrae Service, with small ensemble and organ

The service of Tenebrae, which means “shadows” or “darkness” in Latin, is an extended meditation on the cross of Christ. Using scripture passages, music, and light, the story of Jesus’ betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion is retold in dramatic fashion. During this service, candles are gradually extinguished and the lights dimmed until only a single candle, considered a symbol of Christ, remains. Toward the end of the service, the ‘Christ candle’ is hidden, illustrating the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good. At the very end, a loud noise is made, recalling the earthquake at the time of Jesus’ death (Matthew 27) and his resurrection (Matthew 28:2). The hidden candle is then restored to its place, symbolizing the triumph of Christ over death. By this single light, we all depart in silence. During the service, the congregation is invited to sing the psalms with the choir. The choir chants the lessons, and the third lesson will be a gorgeous duet setting by François Couperin for women and Daughters of Zion.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 18

7:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy, foot washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar

This is one of Dr. Anne’s favorite services, with Mozart’s *Ave Verum*, as well as Taizé music with flutes and violin, adults, school choirs, Daughters of Zion and Gargoyles.

8:30 pm until Friday at 7:00 am

Vigil at Altar of Repose and Youth Lock-In

GOOD FRIDAY, April 19,

7:00 am Good Friday Liturgy, Communion from Reserved Sacrament

Noon-3:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy, Communion from Reserved Sacrament. The adult choir will sing in the first hour, followed by soloists in the middle and Gargoyles, and school choirs at the end—feel free to come (and go) for any part of the service.

3:15-4:00 pm Children’s Program

HOLY SATURDAY, April 20

8:15 am Holy Saturday Liturgy

7:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Baptism and First Eucharist of Easter

This service features Taizé music with many singers and instrumentalists, including flute, clarinet, strings, brass, and guitar. This mystical, meditative service begins in darkness, with the lighting of the new fire and the chanting of the Exultet, and continues with the ringing of bells and the first alleluias of Easter. Singers from the congregation who would like to join the choir for this service are welcome at the 6:00 pm rehearsal. **Speak with Dr. Anne if you’d like to join the instrumentalists.**

EASTER DAY, April 21

7:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00 and 11:15 am Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The combined children and adult choirs will be joined by brass quartet, percussion, organ and bells at the 9:00 and 11:15 am services, in music by K. Lee Scott, Young, Jeffrey Rickards and others. The school choirs will sing Handel’s *Let the Bright Seraphim* with trumpet. Widor’s *Toccata* will be the organ postlude.

There will not be a 6:00 pm Easter service.



MUSIC AT GRACE

Dr. Anne Matlack

More about Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*



Dann Coakwell



Malcolm Merriweather



Elena Bird



Patricia Ruggles



Stephen Sands



Michael Maliakel

Dear Grace Church friends,

It has been my dream to conduct Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion* and I would love for you to be there on Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 pm. This gala production features the vibrant New York Times darlings *The Sebastians* as the double baroque orchestra, Grammy-winning Dann Coakwell as Evangelist, and members of the New Jersey Youth Chorus as the children's choir. The performance also brings New York and New Jersey's finest professional soloists to Morristown, including Grammy-nominated Stephen Sands ("a tenor with a focused, powerful tone" who sings with "subtlety" and "poignancy" – NY Times); award-winning musical theater and classical artist Michael Maliakel ("a baritone so tender your eyes well" –San Francisco Chronicle); Elena Bird ("...her clear soprano soared through the night air" –NJ Arts Maven); alto Patricia Ruggles ("her warm, luscious mezzo...carried the emotion of the text" –Classical NJ); and baritone Malcolm Merriweather as Jesus (described as "gripping" and compelling —Opera News).

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* is believed by many to be the most

profound and dramatic of Bach's works, if not the whole choral canon. I am thrilled that Harmonium's board and fans have allowed us to mount a work that seldom sees local performances due to the complexity of forces and logistics – although the musicianship of my singers is certainly on top of it! It is a bucket list work for me, and I hope many listeners take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Sung in German, the performance will include supertitles of the English translation. Audience members are encouraged to buy tickets in advance and come early for what looks to be a sell-out performance in the beautiful acoustics of St. Mary's Abbey on the campus of Delbarton School, 230 Mendham Road, Morristown.

Harmonium's website has a section with more information about this performance: www.harmonium.org/st-matthew-passion

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* Sunday, April 7, 1:30 pm

General admission tickets: \$40
(\$35 students/seniors)

Tickets before April 5: \$35
(\$30 students/seniors.)

Professional parking shuttle service will be provided for various parking lots on the Delbarton campus.

CHAMBER
SINGERS

Harmonium *Swan Songs*

Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 pm
at Grace Church, Madison

Sunday, March 3, at 3:00 pm
at Christ Church, Short Hills

This program will explore swan songs in both senses of the word: final thoughts on life well-lived, and a celebration of birds and nature. The Harmonium Chamber Singers will show their versatility as they move from the Renaissance to some of the newest and most exciting pieces of the 21st century and back, directed by Dr. Anne.

TICKETS: www.harmonium.yapsody.com
for *Swan Songs* and *St. Matthew Passion*

CHILDREN & YOUTH



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte

During March, as we enter Season of Lent, we will hold a series of learning event for children **K-Fifth Grade during Coffee Hour after the 10 am service.** These four events will explore elements of Episcopal Identity.

March 3

How Do We Pray? Exploring The Book of Common Prayer. *We will learn about the history of the Book of Common Prayer and its importance for personal and communal devotion.*

March 10

Daylight Saving Time Change
How do we Worship?
The Liturgy. We will explore the movements of the liturgy and learn about the role different liturgical leaders play during service.

March 17

St. Patrick's Day
How does the Church tell Time?
The Liturgical Seasons. In this session, we will learn about the seasons and their meaning for the life of faith.

March 24

Why Do We Gather Around the Table?
The Eucharist. Our final session will talk about the Eucharist as the central worship act of those gathered in worship.

Other Events for Kids



Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday

We will have a special Ash Wednesday Chapel Service at 5:30 and 7:00 pm for pre-K through fifth graders in Nieman Hall. We will talk about what distances us from God, and what we might give up or take on during Lent. Kids will get their ashes and then join their families at The Peace.

Sunday, March 10

Girl Scout Recognition and Pajama Sunday

All Girl Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their uniforms and help us celebrate their commitment to this service organization. We will have a special prayer during the 10:00 am service to recognize their dedication.

Wear pajamas to church—it's also Pajama Sunday! To celebrate, we will once again be **collecting pajamas for infants and children.** Please bring in new pajamas which will be distributed by North Porch.

Wednesday, April 3

Compline for Kids

Kids age 3-10 and their parents are welcome to meet at 5:30 pm in the kitchen to make pizza together, do an outreach craft, and eat together with Dr. Elias and Fr. Michel.

After dinner, there is a child-friendly Compline worship service at 6:30 pm with lots of opportunities for the kids to lead the service. We will have a special stations of the cross service for kids.

April 19, Good Friday

Childcare from noon-3:00 pm. Come to part or all of the service. Special children's program from 3:15-4:00 pm.

Sunday, April 21

Easter Day

On the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Christ, Easter morning, children will begin the Easter service in church with their parents. At the appointed time, the children will gather in Nieman Hall for a five-minute dramatization of Mary Magdalene going to Jesus's tomb.

Afterward, they'll enjoy an Easter hunt. Once the Easter hunt is complete, children will rejoin their parents in the church at The Peace. Please note that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt during both the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Pi Day Pies

First we'll make the pies

Friday, March 8, 5:30-7:30 pm

In order to have delicious pies to sell, we need to create them! The magical Barbara Hughes will help us make the most delish pies in the land.



HIGH SCHOOL

SupperClub

save the dates!

The next High School Supper Clubs will be on Friday, April 26 and Friday, May 17 in the Grace kitchen. We will chop, cook and eat! fantastic creations! Join us from 5:30-7:15 pm—bring some friends.



Youth Lock In

Maundy Thursday,

April 18, 8:30 pm to

Good Friday, April 19, 7:00 am

If interested, please pick up a permission form at the sign-up board in Grace Lobby. Completed forms need to be returned to the office by Palm Sunday, April 14.



Spring Plant Sale

The Youth Group will once again be having a plant sale to benefit the Youth Pilgrimage this summer. Further details will be available in Grace Notes and Order Forms will be available around church in late March and through April.

Pilgrimage to the Blue Ridge Mountains

High school teens are invited to journey down to Virginia for hiking, boating, worship at the National Cathedral, and a special immersion experience that explores the challenges of hunger, poverty and waste. Together, we will seek God in nature, inside our own stillness, and in the hardest moments when God feels missing. After three nights in this lovely log cabin in Virginia, we will enjoy a tour and worship at the National Cathedral.



From there we go to the Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center in Maryland to participate in the Heifer International's *Global Explorers* program. There, the teens will spend one night in a quiet cabin before learning how to carry water, build a fire, barter for food and sleep in an impoverished model home. This Heifer experience gives young people a firsthand feel of living with limited food, shelter and water.



What will the teens do?

Unplug—Cell phone usage will be minimal

Reflect—Evening Prayer, Meditation and Art Journaling Projects will bring spaces of contemplation into our community fun

Immerse Themselves in a Third-World Experience—

Heifer International's Global Explorer's provides an authentic experience of living like our less fortunate neighbors around the world

Hike, Boat and Swim! Our cabin is on a private lake!

The details

When: Tuesday, June 25–Sunday, June 30

Cost: a final price will be set in the next couple weeks based on the success of their fundraising:

Pi Day Pie Sale, Corned Beef Dinner, and Annual Plant Sale.

Deposit: \$100 deposit by Sunday, March 24, to hold a spot.

Scholarships are available. Space is limited.

Questions? Email: Mary Lea Crawley: maryleacrawley@yahoo.com or Kathleen Munter: khpm@hotmail.com

BREAKING BREAD

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper

Cost is \$4/person or \$12/family
March 5, from 5:00-7:00 pm
Come and enjoy the last evening
before Lent with breakfast for
supper. Pancakes, eggs, ham
and other breakfast foods will be
served. This event will be hosted
by the Men's Group. No sign up
needed, just come by! Contact
John Garde if you have questions.

St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef Dinner

Sunday, March 17,
5:00-7:00 pm

Eat in, take out, or delivery
(with advance orders)
Adults \$20 Children \$7
Family max \$75
Walk-ins welcome as
available. Sign up on
bulletin board in Grace Lobby.



BOOK GROUPS

Women of Grace Book Group

Third Monday of the month
7:00 pm in Nieman Annex.

March 18: *The Bridal Chair*
by Gloria Goldreich.

April 15: *Where the Crawdads Sing*
by Delia Owens

Come join the conversation!
Contact Joan Nolan with questions
at (973) 267-2638.

Men's Book Group

Third Tuesday of the month
7:30 pm at members' homes.

Join us on March 19 as we discuss
the *Leadership* by Doris Kerns
Goodwin.

All are welcome! Contact Bruce
Rudin with any questions and for
directions: brucedora@verizon.net.

WOMENS RETREAT

Life as a Spiritual Journey

Friday, March 29, 4:00 pm until Sunday morning, March 31
Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY (about 1.5 hours away)

The events and challenges of our lives often leave us with a sense of
confusion or incoherence, leaving us wondering where the Spirit is in
our spiritual journey. If we reframe our stories through the context of
ancient myth and legend, we emerge with a new outlook that
celebrates each of us as the main character in our own spiritual quest.
Over the weekend we will explore how our own stories vibrate with
deeper meaning when we map our individual lives onto the mythic
journey. Reflective journaling and meditative exercises will allow us
to venture beyond the mundane and empower our sense of
adventure. Led by Erika Murphy, M.Div., Ph.D., who teaches religious
studies at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Cost: Full weekend: \$250 (includes meals, lodging Friday and
Saturday, and facilitator) *Checks made payable to Grace Church can be
dropped off at the office.*

Saturday only day rate is \$50. Saturday attendance is unlimited.

Feel free to invite friends outside of Grace! Questions and to secure a
place at the retreat email Kathleen Hower at khpm@hotmail.com.

First Fridays

Potluck starts at 6:15 pm;
presentation begins at 7:00 pm.

March 1
Film Noir

A Noir Tale's
Best for Winter*

Take a stroll
through a damp,
dark cityscape as
vintage film fan
Christine Cullen



Still from 'The Maltese
Falcon' (1941)

presents a
lighthearted
overview of the
film genre known as 'Film Noir.'
Characterized by a cynical
outlook, a pervasive sense of
calamity, as well as a distinctive
visual style, Film Noir represents
mature cinematic storytelling.
Sign-up is on main bulletin board in
Grace Lobby.

*a paraphrase of Shakespeare,
from *The Winter's Tale*.



April 5

Open Space, Farmland
Preservation and
Flood Mitigation



New Jersey is on track to be the
first 'built-out' state in our nation.
We're also the ranked third in the
nation for severe, repetitive
flooding—right up there with
Texas and Louisiana!

Come learn about all that is being
done to preserve our critical
natural resources, retain our
gorgeous open spaces and
mitigate hazardous flooding at
the county and local levels.

O U T R E A C H



Jammie Time

We will be collecting children's pajamas during the month of March. Please drop off new children's pajamas to the collection box in Grace Lobby. North Porch will distribute to children who need warm pjs. Thanks for giving at Grace!



Tuesday, April 16

Volunteer to cook or serve at our next 'Grace Day' at Morristown's Community Soup Kitchen at Redeemer Church. Look for the sign up on the main bulletin board in Grace Lobby. Questions? contact Tom Honohan at thonohan@mac.com



CHAMBER MUSIC FOR CHARITY

*Merynda Adams, harp
Christopher Collins, violin*

**Tuesday, April 30,
at 7:30 pm
here at Grace Church**

Freewill donation at the door to benefit Interfaith Food Pantry.

End Hunger 3.6



Again this year, the Madison Rotary Club—in recognition of the fact that every 3.6 seconds someone in the world

dies of starvation—is asking for financial and physical help to purchase and package meals to help alleviate hunger in our area. In New Jersey, over one million people are living below the poverty line and one in five children is hungry and relying on food stamps for meals.

On Saturday, March 9, the Rotary Club will be packaging meals at the Baldwin Gym on Drew University's campus here in Madison. The goal is 250,000 non-perishable, nutritious meals to feed the hungry in New Jersey.

If you can't help that day, you can still donate. Check out the Madison Rotary Club website: www.madisonrotarynj.org, click on the "buttons" for **donations and volunteering**



Thank you to those who helped raise over \$2700

for the Souper Bowl of Caring. ~ Fr. Michel

L E N T M A D N E S S



Who will win the Golden Halo?

Maybe it will be Margaret of Cortona? Or Gobnait?

Learn about the saints and vote for your favorite. We at Grace are putting our own spin on this Bracket Mania. If you wish, you can participate in our *Charity Bracket*. Simply pick the Saint you think will win it all, and submit the name along with \$10 for each selection, check or cash, to Mike Kostial at the office by Tuesday, March 5.

If your Saint wins, you get to pick which charity receives the proceeds. If there are no winners, this year's recipient will be The North Porch. Want to know more? Visit www.lentmadness.org

GRACE COUNSELING CENTER

Be Grateful

*Catherine M. Morrisett, D.Min.
Staff Therapist, Grace Counseling Center*

In her November issue of O Magazine, Oprah featured this quote "Gratitude isn't just a concept we should visit annually—it's a mindset that's been scientifically shown to help nourish body and mind, improving sleep, easing depression, boosting immunity, and lowering stress. No matter the size, shape or occasion, any bit of thankfulness is guaranteed to do you good."

Another definition of gratitude is the quality of being thankful. To further expand the concept of gratitude it may also be considered an attitude, emotion, a personal trait or behavioral practice.

Applying the practice of gratitude can be an essential way of knowing and maintaining a real sense of peace and contentment. During difficult struggles in life,

being able to reflect on a spirit of gratitude allows us to work through the emotional turmoil in a better state of mind.

Research supports what we are aware of in life on a personal, institutional and even natural level about gratitude. Giving thanks is a way to commit to something outside of ourselves and augments our feelings of hope and well-being. More to the point our mental health can be enhanced through using the practice of gratitude.

During these months of winter it is easy to fall into a depressive state of mind. Our world is in turmoil and we could easily lose hope. It is during these times that the practice of being grateful can somehow change the prospect of doom.

At some point during the day, spend some time on what you are grateful for in life, and practice a period of gratitude. It can elevate our spirit to one of hope.

The Grace Counseling Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to a mission focused on relieving emotional suffering and empowering positive change in the lives of individuals, couples, families and groups.

16 MADISON AVENUE, MADISON NJ
(973) 822-0707 www.gracecounseling.org



NEXT BAPTISMAL DATE

Great Vigil of Easter,
Saturday, April 20, at 7:00 pm.

If you are interested, speak with one of our clergy or call the office at (973) 377-0106.



Flowers play an important role in Holy Week. The Flower Guild needs your help in the Chapel at 9:00 am, Thursday, April 18, and also on Saturday at 9:00 am, April 20.

On Holy Thursday we'll "create" the Garden of Gethsemane, and on Saturday we'll transform the church and halls with lilies, daisies, pansies, etc. to celebrate Easter. We have photos of previous years to guide us but new ideas are always needed. Helpers of all ages are welcome. Please sign up in the lobby or just come!



If you would like to dedicate Easter flowers to the memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for someone or something, please fill out a Flower Offering envelope (found in the pews and in Grace Lobby.) Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the Parish Office. Names received by Sunday, April 14, will be listed in the Easter Bulletins.

BAKERS/COOKS

Calling All Pie Bakers



Help the Youth Group’s fundraising by baking a pie for the Pi Day Bake Sale! Sweet or savory—baker’s choice.

You can drop off your pies in the kitchen before the morning services on March 10, and we will box them for sale.

All proceeds support the Youth Pilgrimage this summer. Questions? Contact Barbara Hughes or Kathleen Munter.



Join the Pancake Crew!

Can you help out on Tuesday, March 5?

We can use help taking “customer” orders, setting tables, delivering food, prepping and cooking.

The Men’s Group is coordinating the dinner but more hands are certainly welcome!

Let us know if you can help: parish@gracemadison.org.

Our busy calendar. Here are our weekly gatherings:

Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi, <i>Grace Hall</i>
2 nd Monday	7:00 pm	Mindfulness for Adults, <i>Senior High Room</i>
3 rd Monday	7:00 pm	Women of Grace Book Group, <i>Nieman Annex</i>
3 rd Monday	7:30 pm	Finance Committee, <i>Library</i>
4 th Monday	7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting, <i>Nieman Hall</i>
Tuesdays	7:30 pm	Craft Guild, <i>Library</i>
1 st Tuesday	7:00 pm	Pastoral Care, <i>Nieman Hall</i>
3 rd Tuesday	7:30 pm	Men’s Book Group, <i>call Bruce Rudin for details</i>
3 rd Tuesday “even” months		Grace’s Day at Community Soup Kitchen
Wednesdays	10:15 am	Women’s Meditation & Centering, <i>Library</i>
	noon	AA (Men’s Group), <i>Grace Hall</i>
2 nd and 4 th Wed.	7:30 pm	Survivors of Suicide, <i>Library</i>
Thursdays	6:00-9:30 pm	Teen & Adult Choirs, <i>Choir Room</i>
Fridays	7:30 am	Men’s Breakfast, <i>Waverly Place Restaurant</i>
	3:30-5:30 pm	Chapel and School Choir, <i>Choir Room</i>



This report covers from January 1-31, 2019.

Total Income:

Budgeted Amount:	\$ 67,942
<u>Actual Amount:</u>	<u>\$ 58,535</u>
Actual Amount is Under Budget:	(\$ 9,407)

It’s a little early in the new year for there to be any accurate indication of where we are, or where we might be headed. The Pledge income shortfall represents the majority (67%) of the underrun, with General Purpose Income representing a significant amount (30%). Plate Offerings are below the budgeted amount by \$466.

Total Expenses:

Budgeted Amount:	\$ 81,774
<u>Actual Amount:</u>	<u>\$ 68,882</u>
Actual Amount is Under Budget:	(\$ 12,892)

There is no primary contributor to this underrun. Many expense items are right at, or near budget.

Net Ordinary Income:	\$ 58,535
Total Expenses:	\$ 68,882
Net Ordinary Income:	(\$ 10,347)
<u>Endowment Income Applied:</u>	<u>\$ 11,440</u>
Net Income:	(\$ 1,093)

Summary: With the transfer from our endowment, we are currently in a positive position. The key will be whether or not we of “the parish” are faithful givers, pledging, and meeting that pledge, to ensure the ministry of the parish. We continue to wait on the receipt of a number of pledges, which have traditionally been received somewhat late in the year. The Vestry will continue to monitor both income and expenses, and if necessary, adjust the budget.

GRACE-AT-A-GLANCE

Fri., March 1	6:15 pm 7:00 pm	First Friday Potluck Topic: <i>Film Noir</i> with Chris Cullen
Sat., March 2	11:00 am 7:30 pm	Funeral for Libby Elmendorf Harmonium <i>Swan Song</i> , Church
Tues., March 5	5:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, <i>Grace Hall</i>
Thurs., March 7	8:45 pm	Lenten Chanted Compline, <i>Church</i> (<i>Every Thursday in Lent</i>)
Fri., March 8	12:15 pm 5:30 pm	Lenten Mid-day Recital: Pingry Students Sr. High Pie Baking, <i>Kitchen</i>
Sat., March 9	9:00 am	End Hunger 3.6, <i>Gym at Drew University</i>
Sun., March 10	<i>morning</i> 10:00 am	<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> Pi Day Pie Fundraiser, <i>Sr. High Youth Pilgrimage</i> Girl Scout Sunday and Pajama Sunday
Wed., March 13	6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross, <i>Church</i> (<i>Every Wednesday in Lent</i>)
Fri., March 15	12:15 pm	Lenten Organ Recital: Christopher Jennings
Sun., March 17	9am-noon 10:00 am 5-8 pm	Vision Screening, <i>Nieman Hall</i> Commissioning of the Vestry St. Pat's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
Fri., March 22	12:15 pm	Lenten Organ Recital: <i>Jeff Clearman</i>
Sat., March 23	9 am-3 pm	Confirmation Retreat, St. Elizabeth's, <i>Ridgewood</i>
Fri., March 29	12:15 pm	Lenten Recital: <i>Patricia Ruggles, Anne Matlack,</i> <i>and guest instrumentalists</i>
Wed., April 3	6:30 pm	Compline for Kids (Pizza-making at 5:30 pm)
Fri., April 5	12:15 pm 6:15 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lenten Organ Recital: <i>Kevin Davis</i> First Friday Potluck, <i>Grace Hall</i> Topic: Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Flood Mitigation, <i>Grace Hall</i> Tenebrae Service, <i>Church</i>
Sat., April 6	9 am-3 pm	Confirmation Retreat, <i>St. James, Upper Montclair</i>
Sun., April 7	1:30 pm	Bach's <i>St. Matthew Passion</i> , St. Mary's Abbey at Delbarton School, <i>Morristown</i>
Fri., April 12	12:15 pm	Lenten Organ Recital: <i>Meet the Organ</i>
Sun., April 14		Palm Sunday Worship at 8 am, 10 am, 6 pm
Mon., April 15		Holy Week Events (<i>see schedules on page 4</i>)
Tues., April 16	11:00 am	Diocesan Clergy Renewal of Vows, <i>Church</i>
Thurs., April 18	all night	Maundy Thursday Youth Lock-In
Fri., April 26	5:30 pm	Sr. High Supper Club, <i>Kitchen</i>
Tues., April 30	7:30 pm	Chamber Music for Charity, <i>freewill donation</i>
Wed., May 1	6:30 pm	Compline for Kids (Pizza-making at 5:30 pm)
Sat., May 4	9 am-noon 10:00 am	Spring Clean Up— come help for an hour or so Confirmation Service, <i>Grace Church</i>

Ongoing Calendar Events— see page 11

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4 MADISON AVE, MADISON NJ 07940
PHONE: (973) 377-0106
www.GraceMadison.org
GraceMadisonNJ@gmail.com

Clergy and Officers

The Rev. Susan R. Ironside, Rector,
ext. 112 sironside@gracemadison.org

The Rev. Canon Michel Belt
Priest Associate, ext. 113
mbelt@gracemadison.org

Wardens

John Garde jgarde@mccarter.com
Evangeline Tross
evangeline.tross@gmail.com

Vestry

Heather	Beth McKeever
Crimmins-Fraser	Dora Monserrate
Mike Cullen	Kirk Nixon
Ruth Deane	Laura Norwalk
Barbara Hughes	Bendelius
Michael Ling	Ed Nunn
Jennifer McCulloch	Sam Partridge

Parish Staff

Dr. Anne Matlack

Choirmaster and Organist
(201) 274-4617
amatlack@gracemadison.org

Katie Hendrix, *Asst. Conductor & Children's Choir Assistant*
kehendrix7@gmail.com

J. Eric Roper, *Gargoyles Director & Assistant to Choir Director*
JohnEricRoper@gmail.com

Linda Bowden, *Chapel Choir Director*
LindaBowden49@gmail.com

Kit Cone, *Senior Verger and Sacristan*
kcone@gracemadison.org

Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, ext. 115
Children's Ministry
eaponte@gracemadison.org

Michael Kostial, *Parish Administrator*
mkostial@gracemadison.org, ext. 110

Susie Harris, *Communications*
sharris@gracemadison.org, ext. 111

Susan Steel, *Bookkeeper*
ssteel@gracemadison.org