

The MESSENGER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July / August 2018

INTERIM PRIEST'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Richard Maxwell
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Are you old enough to remember the Carol Burnett Show on television? She sang a song at the end of each show and the lyrics just came to mind. If you remember the show and the song you can probably still sing it, too. The words are: "I'm so glad we had this time together. Just to laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time to say, 'So long.'"

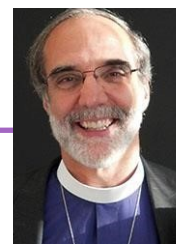
As you know, July 15 will be my last Sunday with you. The movers are scheduled to pack the house on the 20th, put everything in the truck on the 21st, and set out for Florida on the 22nd. Paul will be leaving a few days ahead of this to chauffeur our cat, Lyndon, to Florida and allow him to establish dominance over his new domain. Cosmo and I will leave on the 22nd with the truck and hope to beat it to Coral Gables.

While Paul and I are excited about this new adventure, we will miss all of you. As I wrote in my letter announcing our departure, we treasure the relationships we have developed with parishioners over the past year and a half. And what a wonderful group of people you are—intelligent, fun, energetic, committed, and loving. Grace is a remarkable parish bustling with activity and filled with the love of the Lord. Your next rector will be a very lucky priest!

Rumor has it that the search committee is working hard ... and quickly. I expect that you'll have a new rector in place before you know it, and the next stage of your journey will begin. I feel certain that great things are in store for Grace. This certainty is not based in the fact that the Profile Committee wrote an excellent document, nor in my faith in the hard-working Search Committee although both the Profile and the Search Committees have done and are doing excellent work. No, my certainty that great things are in store for this parish is rooted in the fact that I see the Holy Spirit at work here.

I see the Spirit in all the bustling activity I mentioned above. And even more, I see the Spirit in the love at work in this parish. After all, God is love. We all learned this in Sunday School, and we hear it in Scriptures. John goes on about this at length in his first Letter. Here's a sample, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us" (1 John 4:11-12). God, the Holy Spirit is very much alive at Grace in the love that fills this place.

I'm so glad we had this time together. So long.



Celebrating Bishop Beckwith

You are invited to Bishop Mark Beckwith's Retirement Party on Saturday, September 8 at 11 am. People from across the Diocese will gather at Skylands Event and Conference Center in Randolph to celebrate Bishop Beckwith's ministry, along with that of his wife Marilyn Olson. The cost is \$50 per person and includes a choice from three menu items (there will be a cash bar too.) The deadline to sign up is August 15.

Sign up online:

www.dioceseofnewark.org;
select "Bishop Search" on the top bar; then "Upcoming Events" on the right side of that page; then go to "A Celebration of Ministry"; then follow "How to sign up."





PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Canon Michel Belt

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I don't know about you, but I'm ready; ready for the "lazy, hazy days of summer." Maybe it is just because: because we haven't seemed to really have had a decent weekend all spring; maybe it's because it is just time—the program year should be entering its natural slowdown; maybe it's because the kids are out of school, and there is less "energy" in the church buildings without the running, the excitement of seeing each other at the end of a school day, or as they gather for choir rehearsal (or, at least for the snack that precedes choir); maybe it's hearing as others share their vacation plans. Or, maybe it's simply getting older, and realizing one's energy levels simply can't be maintained twelve months out of the year, seven days a week, let alone (something approaching) twenty-four hours a day!

Whatever the reason, with almost everyone I know, if you listen, you can almost hear the collective sigh of relief that summer is finally upon us. Last issue, I spoke of the need for sabbath—for a time to slow down, be quiet, settle in with God. And not only do we need a weekly sabbath, but we need an annual one as well.

Throughout my career in the secular world, I was surrounded by two types of people: those who regularly took time off (and actually "played" as hard as they worked), and those who felt they

had to be at their desk every day, otherwise the company simply wouldn't survive without them, every waking minute (24/7). Fortunately, I feel somewhere in between.

But summer is also a time of change—of endings and beginnings. Over the past few weeks, we've been privileged at our 10 a.m. service to hear a number of our high school seniors offer their Senior Sermon. They all spoke, in some fashion, about the changes coming in their lives: as they graduated from high school; as they prepared for one last summer with childhood friends before the unknown ahead; of the new experiences they were about to have, as they headed off to college. Noah Wilde said it most succinctly: "Change is everywhere in our daily lives. ... Because change is so prominent and can have such a profound effect on us, it's important that we handle it well. ... Next year my life will be very different, along with all the other seniors. We'll be living in a new place, meeting new friends, and taking different classes. Our parents will go through change as well, going from seeing us daily to only on occasion." (You can read his whole sermon on page 10 of this issue of *The Messenger*.)

Yes, change continues to come to the Grace-family. Shortly after this issue is mailed out, we'll be saying good-bye to Fr. Max (and Paul),

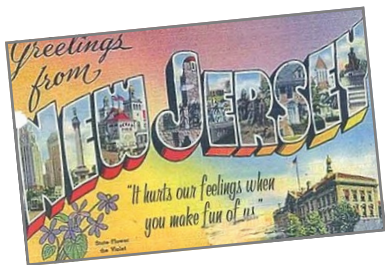


wishing them good luck and God-speed on their move to St. Thomas in Coral Gables, Florida. We'll be extending our good-byes to far too many high school graduates, as they (most likely) silently disappear from our midst (leaving behind their best friends, their Sunday School buddies, their Choir friends, and their "special" places serving at the altar on Sunday mornings). And we'll be wishing them (if we see them) their own God-speed as they head off to new adventures (as we remember our own college "adventures").

But, the Grace-family will, just like Fr. Max and Paul, and like those high school seniors, be facing some exciting new beginnings. We'll be looking forward to the work of our Search Committee coming to an end, with their proposal for final candidates for the new Rector. We'll be anxious (but in a good way) to learn of the Vestry's decision and their selection of that person. And, we'll begin the process of making ready—preparing the Rectory, cleaning the Rector's Office, and the excitement that will naturally fill the air as Grace looks toward the "next steps" it will take in its corporate life.

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Noah closed his sermon by saying "With all this change, it's important to worry only about things you can affect, and stay close to God." I couldn't have said it better myself! Grace Church has been around for many years. It has experienced a variety of leadership—both clergy and lay leaders—arriving and departing. And still it survives—well actually, it thrives! We should continue our prayers for our Church and its leadership, but make our prayer, like one Jesus prayed to God: "Not my will, but thine."



Farewell Party for Fr. Max & Paul

Friday, July 6, 6:30 pm,
in Grace Hall

hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer
Drop in, grab a bite, and say
goodbye to Fr. Max and Paul.
We will celebrate their amazing
service to Grace.

Childcare will be provided.

Fr. Max's last
day at Grace
Church will be
Sunday,
July 15.



A Heartfelt Good Bye & Thank you!

While it seems like we just welcomed Father Max and Paul into the Grace Church community, the truth is that they have been with us since November of 2016. During that time Max and Paul have become an important part of this community. Max has shared with the congregation his many gifts for ministry and leadership as well as community building and development. He has been a great pastor, teacher, advisor and friend. Paul has enriched our common life together through his teaching of art and in so many other ways, by pitching in to help on fundraisers and helping Grace operate. We may have to start sending him text pictures of art left for the rummage sale given some of the "art nuggets" that he has unearthed.

When Max started at Grace he ended his first sermon by saying "Let's have fun." We surely have had fun during the past eighteen months and we wish both Father Max and Paul well as they begin this new adventure in their lives. The office will not be the same without Cosmo to greet visitors. Max and Paul—you have made many friends here at Grace. Please let us know how you are doing in sunny Florida and stop in when in the area.

The Wardens will shortly be able to announce the retention of an additional priest to provide support for Father Michel throughout the summer months and, if needed, into the start of the new program year. It goes without saying that the Grace community owes Father Michel a great deal of

thanks for his tireless efforts on so many fronts during this period especially as he goes off with Chris Wilde, Mike Cullen and Kirsten Kellstrom along with nine of our young people on a mission trip. Thank you to all who helped make this happen.

The Search Committee has turned over a list of candidates to the Vestry for consideration. Our Search Committee has been working hard over the past months reviewing submissions, interviewing candidates and identifying the best candidates for submission to the Vestry. The work of the Search Committee will soon end, and the work of the Vestry will begin. Look for more details when we are able to present them.

Finally please keep the greater Church—our Diocese of Newark and the Episcopal Church as a whole—in your prayers. The Diocese is in active transition for the arrival of our new Bishop who will be consecrated in September of this year. More significantly, the national Church meets in General Convention starting in July in Austin, Texas for nine days of prayer, meetings, and legislation on a large number of issues. Look for details as issues are discussed and decided.

Please keep our Search Committee, Wardens and Vestry in your prayers as we discern the path of our common life together.

Your Wardens,

John Garde and Tom Honohan



MUSIC AT GRACE

Dr. Anne Matlack

(201) 274-4617 Anne.Matlack@ChoralCommunities.com

RSCM and GRACE

The Royal School of Church Music's goal is to uplift the spiritual life of its communities through high quality choral music, providing musical education to singers through a structured choral music program and summer music courses. Here at Grace Church we follow RSCM standards, teaching our singers of all ages to read music and providing opportunities for collaborations and evensongs with other churches and sponsoring attendance at summer RSCM camps. Arthur Brooks and Will Roper will serve as proctors at the Kings College Course in Wilkes Barre, PA in July; Dr. Anne, Jabez Van Cleef, Catie Gilhuley and Claudia Sydenstricker will attend the Newport course in August.

Dr. Anne's training scheme is similar to the one now offered as **Voice for Life** from RSCM and has the following levels for kids: novice, chorister, light blue ribbon, dark blue ribbon, and red ribbon. Summer is the perfect time to schedule your free one-on-one training with Dr. Anne. Third grade is the perfect time to start in the School Choir or "novice." Second graders may start if they are keen to, are good readers, and have had some musical instrument, lessons, or have already been in Chapel Choir a few years—see Dr. Anne for assessment.



There is no "audition" for the School Choir, Dr. Anne has not yet met a "novice" she can't train! Novice appointments are a half-hour and teach the skills of recognizing G, A, and B on the treble staff, clapping "ta" and "ti-ti", finding your way around a hymnal and a service bulletin, and singing simple responses with good breath support, plus saying The Lord's Prayer. Even initially shy children

usually enjoy the one-to-one time with Dr. Anne, and are prepped to know what to expect in their first rehearsal.

Wonderful music was presented Choir Recognition Sunday. First year crosses were awarded to Joy Albiston, Brynn Byam, Kiera Duff, Campbell Sacher, Ella Tabish, Beckett Bradshaw, and all other crosses had ribbon color changes as they move up a year. All choirs were thanked, amazing music was sung, and our three head chorister seniors—Elizabeth Monkemeier, Peri Munter and Noah Wilde—all gave fantastic sermons!



Choir Rehearsals

Mid-Summer: Friday, July 27

3:45 pm: Snack

4:00-4:30 pm: 'Big Brother & Sister'

Chapel & Blue Choirs practice together

4:00-5:00 pm: Red Choir

4:30-5:30 pm: Blue Choir

5:30-6:00 pm Daughters of Zion

(provided enough singers are available)

Head-Start Rehearsals

Choirs Head-Start rehearsals begin Thursday, August 30 & Friday, August 31 (regular times for those in town).

Fall Choir Rehearsals

All "regular" choir rehearsals start September 6 & 7.

Choir Age/Grade Ranges

Chapel Choir (ages 3-7)

Red Choir (Grades 2-5)

Blue Choir (Grades 6-12)

Note: Rising 6th graders should be fit for blue robes over the summer.

Contact Dr. Anne to schedule.

*"I will sing with
the spirit
and with the
understanding also."*

1 Corinthians 14:15

RSCM MOTTO

Psallam spiritu et mente

GRACE COMMUNITY MUSIC



Summer Bells

Just two practices:

Saturday July 21, 10-11 am

Saturday July 28, 10-11 am

then, ring during service
on Sunday July 29, at 10:00 am!

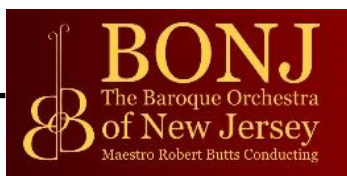
It's intergenerational: All ages of ringers welcome (3rd grade to adult), and all levels of experience! Newbies will get an 'easy' bell, and more experienced ringers will get more bells. *Email Dr. Anne by July 13 or sign up on music board!*



MUSIC on SUMMER SUNDAYS

Everyone is welcome to sing in the Summer Choir, leading hymns and psalms. Just show up at 9:30 am in the choir room for a brief rehearsal. The choir stalls are where the church air-conditioning blows! Many choir members also sing from the pews in the summer, helping congregational singing greatly!

Congregation, remember I have offered free voice lessons to all! Designated volunteer soloists and instrumentalists will provide the offertories and voluntaries. Speak to me if you would like to perform a solo offering. ~ Dr. Anne



Grace Community Music & Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey *Summer Festival 2018*

August 6-12, 12:15-12:45 pm

Baroque Orchestra Summer Festival will include our week-long noontime organ series with lunch. As always, keyboard and pedalboard are projected for better audience viewing, and lunch is available for just \$7 from Slamwich. (*see flyer—post or share with a friend!*)

Monday, August 6	John Pivarnik, organ and piano
Tuesday, August 7	Kevin Davis
Wednesday, August 8	TBD
Thursday, August 9	Evan Currie offering Bach and Mendelssohn
Friday, August 10	Anne Matlack with Erik Donough, saxophone

Freewill donation at the door for the performers.



**WITH
MASTERWORK CHORUS**
Wednesday evenings
during July.

Please come sing with Dr. Anne on Wednesday, July 11 at 7:30 pm, as she conducts Faure's *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine* and J. S. Bach's *Cantata 140*. Our own Katie Hendrix and J. Eric Roper will be the soloists!

Come listen or sing!

Singers: \$15 ticket includes score rental. Just \$7.50 for students and listeners.

Chatham United Methodist Church
460 Main Street, Chatham
www.masterwork.org/2018-sumsings.html

MUSIC



Passing the torch to the new Head Choristers are Peri Munter to Grace Hughes, and Elizabeth Monkemeier to Kimberly Love. (Not pictured is new Head Chorister Catie Gilhuley.)



**Choir Recognition Sunday:
Sunday, June 10**

Crosses were given to singers who have completed their first full year in School Choirs, and the ribbon color changes for the rest to signify their many years in choir. Our head choristers Peri Munter, Elizabeth Monkemeier and Noah Wilde gave senior sermons that day, and festive hymns and organ music rounded out the day. Thank you to Dr. Anne for the lovely open house gathering that afternoon!



Above: Gargoyles annual trek to McCool's Ice Cream.



Prius Brass Quartet (from left) Erik Donough, Matt Palmer, Kimberly Love, Grace Van Cleef.

Right: Daughters of Zion perform Schütz during Choir Recognition Sunday.



SENIOR SERMONS

Congratulations Grads!

Seven of Grace Madison's graduating seniors presented sermons to the congregation.

Kristen McManus

Hello everyone, my name is Kristin McManus and I am a senior at Madison High School. You've probably never heard me talk before, so bear with me because I'm a bit nervous. I will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University in the fall to study Musical Theatre and Special Education. So, I won't be going very far from home, but it will still be a pretty big change compared to what I'm used to. I've lived in Madison my whole life, so I've been through Central Avenue, the Madison Junior School, and now I'm on my very last few days at Madison High School. It's a weird feeling thinking it's all going to be over in 15 days. Time is flying by, and it's hard to let every moment sink in and take it all in.

A lot of the things I know in life, I have to thank the community at Grace Church for. Grace has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. One of my first memories is one Friday, I was in fourth grade, my mom and I dropped off Kathryn for choir, and Chickie (Monkemeier) was begging me to come in. I literally remember her yanking my arm through the door. So, I finally gave in and said I would try it. It was so nerve wracking being the tiny shy kid that I was, but somehow it felt like home. I have so many fond memories with my friends in choir, and Friday afternoons walking

from the Junior School to McCools to get giant ice creams and then to church, only to get more snacks. Hiding time capsules in secret places in the church with Peri, Ev, and Zo. And some of my favorite songs like "When I Close My Eyes" and "Under the Calico Tree," a classic. So now, eight years later, I'm standing here with my very last few days as a high school student wearing a blue robe. The choir has created such an unforgettable family that I will miss so dearly. Yes, I will most likely come back as an "adult," but it feels like the end of an era. Thank you, Dr. Anne, and everyone involved in choir for making my childhood and teenage years such a memorable experience.

Another very important part of my life is my job of acolyting at Grace Church. My sister introduced me to it, and I fell in love with being up on the altar. It is such a perfect way to serve the Lord, and makes you feel like you're making the service happen. And yes, of course sometimes we can have fun up on the altar. Like doing sign language to Tina, Kathryn and Hope from across the other side, until Kit would hold down my arms and give me a stern look. That's another thing: Kit has become such a big mentor to me, and this Church would not be what it is today without his hard work. I don't think there has ever been a



Sunday without Kit Cone. It truly shows how persistent and invested someone can be in something that is only really volunteering your time.

When I was given the job as Head Acolyte, I was super excited to take on a bigger role in our church community. It has taught me responsibility and dedication, and how to deal with things that are forever changing. So thank you Kit, Mrs. McCulloch, and everyone who gives up their time to make every service happen.

As graduation gets closer, I realize how much things are going to change. This year was a very big learning year for me, and I've noticed how badly I deal with change. However, another thing I have learned is to stay true to myself and my beliefs. Don't let anyone ever change who you are. I'm still on the hunt for who I've not yet become, but one thing this church has taught me is to stay true to myself and always be kind. Be kind to yourself, and then let your kindness flood the world. Thank you to my Grace Church family for shaping me into the person that I am today.

SENIOR SERMONS

Elizabeth Monkemeier

Good morning, my name is Elizabeth Monkemeier; better known, and only known to some as Chickie. I have been at this Church for 17, going on 18, years and it has truly left its mark on me. I have always watched the Senior Sermons, and most of the time, I thought of things that would be in my own. (I have forgotten them, so please forgive me, and I will still try to leave my mark). As I stand in front of you today, I see faces that have offered me support and guidance and laughter throughout my entire life. I see people with whom I have shared painful losses and moving experiences in my religious journey. Next year, I will be attending Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, dual majoring in Clarinet Performance and Music Education. It pains me to think that I will be a whole 45 minutes away in the coming year for school, and regularly attending services will not be possible. I know I will not be far, and that I will be back soon.

I also know that I would not be on this path, and I would not have discovered my passions had I not grown up in this community. Music is ingrained in me, thanks to Dr. Anne, and I am grateful for all opportunities she has provided me with. I would be remiss if I did not say that she is the reason that I am empowered and inspired to become a music educator and performer, and that she has taught me to be a great one. I found my confidence, my passion, and my voice with Dr. Anne's guidance. From RSCM testing, to being Head Chorister with Peri for the past two

years, and even doing State Honor Choir for 6 years, and the fantastic opportunity to be able to teach in Vacation Bible School and Chapel Choir for the past two years, are among the list of memories and learning experiences have made me grow into the person that I am today. I know I will not be pursuing vocal performance, but I know that I have gained the skills and knowledge in order to continue in college until I can find a choir. But that choir will pale in comparison to the family of music, commitment, and spirit that I have gained and earned here at Grace. Thank you Dr. Anne, for inspiring me and pushing me to be my best, and for mentoring me for the past 11 years.

The friendships and relationships with parishioners and my fellow choristers are the hardest for me to leave as I go off to school. Mason Gross isn't far (and it really isn't, please come visit and hear my concerts!), but without rehearsals and meetings and services, it will be difficult for me. Brian, Noah, Peri, Kristin, Catie, Kimbo, Claudia, thank you for teaching me how pure and durable friendships from Church are, and thank you for being my brothers and sisters. Red Choir, Blue Choir, and Chapel Choir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to mentor you as I have grown. Thank you for the laughter, and most importantly, thank you for the music, that I keep forever.

I am blessed with the people and children who have taught me lessons, as I tried to teach them. I am blessed with a supportive and



kind congregation who would, and do, go out of their way to make me and others comfortable. I am blessed to have a family, that not only includes my parents, sisters, pets, and beyond, but my church family. I can only hope that I have shown and sang my appreciation and love for my church and the people I worship with in my time here, and I will continue to do so. The words of Psalm 146 appear in my mind when I think of my worship, "I will praise the Lord while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being." And also, from Ephesians 5:19: "Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord." These words ring true, as any time I sing in this church, my heart feels full, and I know that this is my way of praising Him. The church has brought me out of painful times, and raised me up in joyous times. I will sing praises to God, and God's people, as long as I live. I hope that what I sing with my lips, I may believe in my heart, and what I believe in my heart, I will show forth in my life. Thank you for being my second home, a space to grow, and for helping me along the way. Thanks be to God.

SENIOR SERMONS

Peri Munter

Good morning. For anyone who doesn't know me, my name is Peri Munter. Typically I also introduce myself as a senior at Madison High School, but as I'll be graduating this Friday, the description does not seem very accurate anymore. The prospect of graduating from high school, and moving away from my home town and community, has brought me great excitement. However, it has also brought great reflection—not only in regards to my future at American University, but also about my past in Madison, and my childhood here. Major life transitions, such as the move to college which I'll be undertaking alongside the other seniors, often bring up questions about identity, and who you really are. How much of my identity is rooted in my environment? How much of myself is tied to the places I frequent, my home, my job at Starbucks, Madison's various public schools, the choir room here? How much of myself am I leaving behind amidst Madison's various roads and buildings, in the hallways of Grace Church and the folders spilling with sheet music, when I depart for college in August? These questions can truly only be answered with the knowledge of hindsight, when the last moving boxes are unpacked, when I've begun building a new life cities and hours away. However, in the meantime, I've realized the strength of the security and community which Grace Church has offered and will always offer me. From my earliest

memory here, Grace Church welcomed my family and me with open arms, even if in turn I was less than enthusiastic about the prospect of sacrificing time that I could spend reading for Sunday morning services. This indignant attitude persisted even to the day that Elizabeth Monkemeier finally succeeded in her mission to force me—excuse me, invite me—into the Red Choir. Though it was with no small amount of apprehension and even mild resentment that I eventually succumbed to Elizabeth's choral pleas, I was hooked from that very first rehearsal, and returned week after week, eventually bringing my siblings with me. As a Red Choir chorister, I remember making faces in the mirrors above the adult choir stalls, doodling throughout rehearsal, passing notes during services, and trying to find the best volume at which to chatter to my friends in between rehearsing songs every Friday afternoon, in order to avoid Dr. Anne's notorious whistle. Above all, however, my early days of choir rapidly instilled in me a love for

music and a passion for creating and supporting the beauty of song, something which has, in my role as Head Chorister, clearly only strengthened over time. Had I not allowed Elizabeth to pull me, despite my internal kicking and screaming, into choir rehearsal that first Friday afternoon so many years ago, I would certainly have begun my journey as a singer very, very differently, if at all. One of the most prominent musical joys in my life—Harmonium—came to me through my participation in the Grace Church choirs, and singing with the Daughters of Zion each week has served to strengthen and establish friendships with some of the most talented girls I have had the privilege to sing with. All of this illustrates how music has developed into a fundamental building block of my identity, inherent to my being and my happiness, and as natural as breathing, or laughing, or smiling at someone you love. This is, undoubtedly, because of my time here at Grace. During my transition from high school to college, as I reflect on who I am and where I am going, I know that Grace Church will always be a foundational part of who I am and what I do. This community has demonstrated the power of rallying together to support a cause, whether it be raising money for various organizations, or collecting food and supplies for the Interfaith Food Pantry, and will always inspire me to pursue

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SENIOR SERMONS

Noah Wilde

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Noah Wilde, a senior graduating from Madison High School in one short week. I was baptized here at Grace and have attended church here my whole life. That's to say I've seen a lot happen. A lot has changed—from associates every few years, to the building itself. And now we're looking for a new rector. So when I was thinking about what my senior sermon should be about, one topic stood out: change.

Change is everywhere in our daily lives. People move, or you might lose your job. You can still feel the change in even something as small as your local supermarket closing. We tend to have a negative association with change. It reminds us of chaos, disorder, and confusion. Needing to adjust to a new environment can be uncomfortable and we naturally fear the unknown. Change is a difficult, and stressful thing to deal with.

Because change is so prominent and can have such a profound effect on us, it's important that we handle it well. Grace Church has helped me with this, teaching me to roll with the flow, and to adapt to

change. Next year my life will be very different, along with all the other seniors. We'll be living in a new place, meeting new friends, and taking different classes. Our parents will go through change as well, going from seeing us daily to only on occasion. And the parish is going through change as the search for a new rector progresses. With all this change, it's important worry only about things you can affect, and stay close to God.

Good luck to my parents, who will be empty nesters by the end of August. Good luck to the parish and the search for the next rector, and good luck to all the other seniors, where ever life takes you next year.



Peri Munter (continued from page 9)

my own causes with passion and energy. There are countless figures at Grace Church to whom I would like to give credit and thanks, but just to name a few, I would like to start with Dr. Anne, a true force of nature in this community and in the many other communities, musical and otherwise, in which she dedicates her time and energy. Father Michel and Father Max, I cannot imagine better people to help lead this church, and I am lucky that I was able to spend my last couple years here with your compassionate and kind guidance. Of course, I also have to thank Elizabeth, without whom I may not have ever chanced to step into this building, and who served as

my first partner in crime, and now as my fellow Head Chorister. I would also like to recognize the incredible female role models I've encountered here at Grace—though birds of a feather flock together, it sometimes appears to be nothing short of a miracle that so many strong, purposeful, and endlessly hard-working women have congregated in this community to accomplish the inspiring and the seemingly impossible. However, the most gratitude will always be owed to my parents—two figures who have shaped me into the person I am today. My father, who has delivered my siblings and me to Church every week, and whose work with events such as the

Rummage Sale has given me countless opportunities. How anybody can raise and manage the lives of four children and a dog, while still dedicating enough weekly hours to the Grace Church Search Committee to meet the requirements of most part-time jobs, and even keep up with various other tasks, is beyond me, but my mother does all this and more. And finally, thank you to everyone in this congregation and community, for being a part of the place which I love so much. Even as I plan for my future, I will always carry my memories and experiences here with me, and I will always look forward to returning to this second home. Thank you.

SENIOR SERMONS

Brian Brooks

Hello. For those of you who don't know me, or haven't seen me since I started transitioning, my name is Brian Brooks. I apologize ahead of time if I seem anxious, I'm very nervous in front of people, which may come as a surprise to many, as I've been messing around in those pews, and those pews, and those seats, and those pews ... and all those pews since I was, well, pretty much since I was born. I've been going to Grace Church since 'day one' and I've loved it since day one. It's been a second home and a second family to me. If I need someone, I know I can always come here and have support. I'm accepted for who I am, and been helped through my struggles. As some of you may know, and some don't, I've been in and out of various hospitals for the past couple years, and my church family was there for me through it all. Assuring me the Lord would guide me through it all and help me make it safely to the other side. And He did.

Since I'm already thanking all of you for helping me, I'll use this as a transition into thanking certain people. Starting first with Dr. Anne. I have been in the choir for many, many, MANY years, so, I of course have to thank her for all she's done for me. Teaching me lessons that seemed insignificant, but that I took right to heart and still carry with me. Creating a confidence in my voice I never had. Giving me a place to go on Friday afternoons when I didn't have many friends in middle school, and felt bad I had nowhere to go on a Friday afternoon. You're really a backbone of this community Dr. Anne, and I'll miss you.

Another backbone is Kit Cone. Kit has helped me, from shaking an invisible bell so I know when to ring the real bells, to joking around at all the chances he gets, to giving me the chance to help those less privileged, to the most important, taking me to Minuteman for delicious pie. Your lessons in aiding others and making any situation brighter with a good joke will be with me wherever I go.

Lastly, I have to thank my family and friends. To my parents, who would I be without you two? I wouldn't be half the person I am today. Raising me amazingly and making the smart choice to—even when I just want to sleep—take me to Church so I can be with this community. You've been the best parents anyone can ask for. There's so much more I can say but I don't want this sermon to be a few days long so I'll end it there with a huge thank you. To my Nanna, for always giving me a mint when I sit with her. And to my friends, you know who you are, thank you for messing around with me, quietly of course, and giving me years of laughs. I'll cherish those laughs forever. And I'll cherish all this Church has given me. Thank you.



Chorister's Prayer:



Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants
who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts
we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENIOR SERMONS

Sage Geyer & Maddie Farrell

Sage: Maddie and I met right there in the back of the church during the 2004 Christmas Pageant. We were both four years old, and dressed as angels in white cottas and sparkly halos. When the little kids walk down the center aisle, they walk two-by-two holding hands. Just before we stepped out we had to choose partners to walk with. I looked around, pointed to Maddie, and said to my Mom, "I want to hold that girl's hand." We have been best friends ever since.

Maddie: We did everything together. Like most things, when I heard Sage was signed up for Vacation Bible School and choir with Dr. Anne, I insisted I had to do it too. We grew up singing all of the church hymns side-by-side, our favorite being of course, "This is the feast of VICTORY for our God," just for how much all the older kids got excited for it too. We were always surprised when Dr. Anne gave us solos, and appreciate everyone pretending we sounded okay. We would also like to thank Dr. Anne and everyone else in the choir for putting up with us when we couldn't stop laughing in the back pews, and apologize for the numerous times we had to be shushed.



*Left: Sage Geyer
and Maddie Farrell*

Sage: Grace Church taught us numerous life lessons. We both learned how to braid using the rainbow ribbon book markers that came in each Hymnal. We learned our competitiveness can lead to amazing feats, as we both memorized the Nicene Creed in middle school just to see who could do it without messing up. We learned that being on time for practice (choir or flute) is important, even if we made it seem difficult. But more importantly, we learned the value of having a strong community, how to be responsible for ourselves and for our own actions, and how to truly love and appreciate the people and things around us.

Maddie: We are so grateful to have been brought up in such a welcoming and loving environment, and have so many people to thank. I want to start by thanking Mother Lauren. I know

she's not here, but what a truly amazing human being. She has a very special way about her. When I started assisting the 6 p.m. services on Sundays, I was exposed to a different part of the church. Mother Lauren, George Hayman, Kit Cone, and Mr. Nunn all recognized how nervous I was, and how uncomfortable I looked being in front of people, and took me under their wing. Their warmth and patience in their guidance made me feel safe and strong as I stood at the altar with them. As I continued, Father Michel and Father Max furthered my development, and were just as patient and kind. They all had to overlook my many, many mistakes, but they never once judged me or gave up on me. I felt an intimacy at these services that deepened my appreciation for our Church, and heightened my awareness of God.

(Continued on page 13)

MINISTRY

Geyer & Farrell
(Continued from page 12)

Sage: Other important people we would like to thank are Mrs. Crawley, Mrs. Hughes, and Dr. Anne. We thank you all for giving us a foundation we know will serve us for the rest of our lives. You made Church fun and meaningful, and we are so grateful for your leadership, love, and direction. Making pizzas, camping out in the courtyard, washing each others' feet, singing about "Ravioli and Spaghetti", writing plays for the oldest VBS members, and always knowing that when Dr. Anne gave us a multiple choice question, it was usually number two, brought us closer together.

Maddie: Being loved and accepted is such a fundamental part of our Church, that it has felt more like a family than just a community. Sage and I both knew from that first day that we were important to one another, and the people we were surrounded with in this Church helped our relationship grow, as we learned to love and accept one another as we are. I am so lucky to have grown up with Sage and gotten to know her inside and out, and I have this church to thank for that.

Sage: I am so thankful for everything that Grace Church has given me, but I am most thankful that it has given me my best friend.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Peggy and Kirk Oakes were this year's recipients from Grace Church of the Hegg Award on June 10 at the *Senior Ministries Evensong* at St. Peter's Church, Morristown.

For almost 40 years Peggy and Kirk Oakes have been members of Grace Church and over that time have supported the church with endless hours of volunteer work in support of their fellow parishioners both as part of church programs and personally through their kindness and generosity. They continue their work with great enthusiasm and love.

Peggy, a teacher and Director of the Madison Cooperative Nursery School, provided support to families of parishioners and the wider community. She supported, and still does, Grace's Hospitality Ministry, Office Angels and worked on many pancake suppers and luncheons over the years. Peggy's organizational oversight of flower delivery to parishioner's homes each week, and large numbers of deliveries on Easter and Christmas, brings Grace's love and support into our community's life. Both Kirk and Peggy continue to support this ministry.

Kirk served on the Vestry and was the Treasurer serving the parish. He was Head Usher, training and overseeing the ushering team. He also organized ushers, and served as usher, for funerals and other special services such as concerts and confirmations. Both Peggy and Kirk were Greeters for the church as well.

Although involved in many programs at Grace, the most telling thing describing the team of Peggy and Kirk is their continued enthusiasm and willingness to serve in any way to make Grace Church the wonderful place it is.

The David Paul Hegg II Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to recipients in recognition of their many contributions made to church and community. All who knew him held The Rev. Dr. David P. Hegg II in the highest esteem. His commitment to matters of retirement, aging, and the role of seniors in the congregation made him the natural selection in 1991 to revitalize a *Diocesan Commission on Aging*. These annual awards are named in memory of the man who led the charge and had the vision that continues to inspire Senior Ministries—Diocese of Newark.

Acolyte Recognition Sunday

Sunday, June 3



Gospel Gatherings continues in the summer

During the summer months, all children in grades 3 and up continue to meet in the Library, during the 10 am service, to discuss the Gospel. The kids start in church with their parents and then exit, right after the Gospel is read. (The clergy will invite them to exit before the Sermon.) They rejoin their parents after The Peace. This group has a great time discussing the Gospel and how it relates to their pre-teen lives with Jabez Van Cleef every Sunday. It's a wonderful way to figure out how God can fit into the challenges of modern day peer pressure and school life.



The Daughters of Zion, old and new,
provided a lovely program at
Short Stories Community Book Hub
on Thursday, June 21.

C H I L D R E N



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte
(973) 377-0106 x113
GraceMadisonKids@gmail.com

Finding the Sacred Amidst the Quotidian

For many of us summer is a time of play, to go to the pool, to enjoy the fresh produce from local farmers' markets, to challenge ourselves to a new hiking trail, and to take a well-deserved vacation. Summer is often the time when we make space in our busy schedule to rejuvenate, to relax, to just change the routines in which we have toiled most of the year. Far too often the changes we seek to our yearly routine during the summer months also change how regularly we attend church; we don't come to church as frequently as we did during the year.

One of the things I miss during summer months is not partaking of our liturgy as often. In reality, what I missed most are the faces that are familiar to me during Sunday worship. Liturgy is essential to Episcopal worship practices. Jeffrey Lee & Dent Davidson say that liturgy "is a corporate act of the people of God that aims to change us, to draw us out of our self-conscious preoccupations and deeper into the mystery of the dying and rising love of God for us and this world. It is an encounter with God's presence." * I presume that we all have sacred stories we can share about how we have encountered God through the liturgy in our lives. These are stories that empower our lives to search for a deeper connection and live our lives in light of the Eucharistic promise. These are stories to share with others as well so that we can better understand how God is present in our midst.

In the summer months, while we may not participate as often in corporate worship, we can still encounter the Holy One in our day-to-day. If our spirits are attuned to how the Divine commune with us in ordinary things, our stories of God's presence will be more vibrant and more far-reaching that we could imagine. As we move into the rhythms of Summer, I would like to share a few lines from Mary Oliver's poem "Song of the Builders,"**

On a summer morning
I sat down
on a hillside
to think about God—a worthy pastime.

As we make space to restore our bodies and minds after a busy season, let us also set time aside to commune with the sacred and find God's presence among the quotidian.

*Jeffrey Lee & Dent Davidson. 2018. "Gather for God: Church's Teaching for a Changing World. Vol. 8." Church Publishing, NY.

** Mary Oliver. 2004. "Why I Wake Early." Beacon Press, Boston, MA.



Vacation Bible School

TIME LAB

July 16-20, 9 am-noon

Imagine traveling through time and meeting the most important person ever—a man who was not just a man, but also God. One who turned the world upside-down. One who existed outside of time. We'll do just that with the *Time Lab* Vacation Bible School. We'll use key words to help us remember that Jesus, our forever faithful, loving, caring, promise-keeping Lord, has been with us always! Enrollment for VBS is still open, there are many opportunities to volunteer; teens can receive community service hours! For more information, contact Dr. Elias.



Summer Children's Chapel



will take place at our outdoor chapel. We ask that parents sign-in your children at the playground at the rear of the parking lot beginning at 9:45 am Sunday mornings. In case of unfavorable weather, we will move the Children's Chapel to the Godly Play Room, located in the lower level of the Church.

We also ask that you consider signing up to help chaperone Children's Chapel throughout the summer months. *Please see Dr. Elias for more information.*

Did you know?



Congratulations to **Fr. Michel**, installed as president of Madison Rotary June 29.



Bruce and Wendy Davies are proud and pleased to announce the birth of a **granddaughter, Phoebe Llewellyn Davies**, on May 7, 2018 to Morgan and Kendra Davies in Pleasanton, California. Phoebe joins older sister Kaia who is 7 years old.

Morgan served as head acolyte at Grace Church, in about 1997. Kendra, is an

attorney in San Jose. Morgan is the head golf pro at Contra Costa Country Club, outside of San Francisco.



Thank you to **Chris Cullen** for serving as our inhouse photographer during many of our services. Thank you for the photos for Choir & Acolyte Recognition Sundays.



Thank you to Dr. Marco Zarbin, and his team from Rutgers Medical School for vision screening here at Grace on June 24.

Thank you Ellen Haase & Helen Raymaker who played during services when Dr. Anne was away! Thanks for sharing your talent!

Send your announcement & photos, we'd love to include them in the September newsletter.
Email to GraceCommNJ@gmail.com



SOME OF OUR GRADUATES!



Sage Geyer graduated from Madison High School. She will be attending Amherst College in Amherst, MA in the fall. She will also play on the Amherst Field Hockey Team.



Kristin Jane McManus graduated from Madison High School in June. She will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University in the fall, majoring in Musical Theatre and Special Education.



Zoey Ross graduated from Madison High School in June. She will be attending the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in the fall.

O U T R E A C H

Fall Clothing Sale

Collection: September 2-7

Sale Day: September 8



In recent years hundreds of shoppers at our sales have obtained good clothing at very reasonable prices. An even larger number of individuals have benefited from the clothes forwarded to specific charities and services, not only in our community but literally around the world. We have great success in recycling clothing to those who can really use it; nothing is wasted.

Parishioners and non-parishioners have been very generous in their donations in the past, which has led to both generally high quality, and a broad selection of clothing, shoes, hats and outerwear for men, women, children and infants. Often we have a substantial selection of clothing which has never been worn, sometimes in its original packaging.

In addition to clothing donations, we will need many volunteers to donate time to help sort the clothing during the week, work during the sale, and clean up post-sale. Look for a sign-up in August.

Thank you for supporting this important outreach activity. May God bless you, John Wand, *Chairman* wandbandj@aol.com; (973) 377-3103.



Volunteer Opportunity for Youth – August Soup Kitchen

The Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown continues to be one of the ways Grace Church reaches into our community with its talent, time and treasure. There will be a Grace team going to Church of the Redeemer in Morristown on Tuesday, August 21 between 11:00am-1:30 pm.

Given school is out this is a perfect time to have our youth 12 years or older participate in this enriching experience. Please contact Kirk Nixon and Tom Honohan if you have a young person who would like to participate, and we will arrange all the details including transport.

As usual, adults can sign up on the Grace Hall foyer bulletin board in early August.

~ Kirk Nixon & Tom Honohan

B U I L D I N G S & G R O U N D S



Say good bye to the gold-floral striped wallpaper, the wrinkly green carpet, and strangely angled island. The Parish office is getting a make over this month. The walls and woodwork will be painted and office space rearranged to make a more welcoming and usable space. Stay tuned!

WORSHIP

HOLY DAYS

Independence Day

Wednesday, July 4

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

Saint Mary Magdalene

Monday, July 23 5:30 pm, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Saint James the Apostle

Wednesday, July 25 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Rite I & Healing

The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Monday, August 6
5:30 pm, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

St. Mary the Virgin

Wednesday, August 15 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Rite I & Healing

Saint Bartholomew the Apostle

Thursday, August 23 5:30 pm, Holy Eucharist, Rite I



All are welcome to attend the ordination and consecration of the Rev. Carlye Hughes as the XI Bishop of Newark.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preside at the service on Saturday, September 22, 11:00 am at the NJPAC in Newark.

CARING CONNECTIONS

GraceNOW! can help

Find yourself in sudden need of ...

a ride to a doctor's office? a last minute dogwalker? help with household chores? someone to watch a toddler while you take your other child to the doctor?

GraceNOW! volunteers are parishioners who are willing to help fellow congregants who find themselves in need of assistance. Simply give one of them a call and they will certainly try to help.

Kathleen Hower (973) 462-3356

Wade Kirby (973) 766-4388 (cell) (973) 538-3500 x17 (office)

Eliot Knight (973) 985-8555 (call or text)

Kirk Oakes (973) 610-1391 kirkoakes@optonline.net

Peggy Oakes (201) 274-3351 pfoakes@optonline.net

David Partridge (973) 479-9175 dtp777@gmail.com

Missy Partridge (973) 967-0379 (call or text)

Sam Partridge (201) 650-2842 / sampart96@yahoo.com

Eleanor Rawitz (973) 224-1222 (call or text)

Michael Rawitz (973) 722-7474

Sue Streater (973) 822-8498 mes.susabelle@gmail.com

Raia Wielandy (908) 884-5501 wielandy@gmail.com



Our next baptismal service will be during the 10:00 am service on November 4 which is All Saints' Sunday.

Please speak to one of our clergy if you are interested in being baptized, or having your child baptized.



Farewell Party

Friday, July 6
6:30 pm Reception for
Fr. Max & Paul Kline

First Friday

August 3
6:15 potluck,
7:00 pm, Game Night

Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 9
after the 10 am service

Welcome Sunday

Sunday, September 16

FUNDRAISERS



GRACE ANNUAL AUCTION! Saturday, October 27

The Auction is a big night for Grace. It's our biggest fundraiser and a very festive party! We welcome new ideas and new ideas planning this important event!



Grace Counseling Center
Fall Fundraiser
Night of Comedy
Friday, September 14.

Watch for your invitation!



Men's Book Group

Check Grace Notes for information on upcoming book selections, dates, and locations.



GRACE COUNSELING CENTER

The Marriage Encounter

by Dr. Catherine Morrisett,
Staff Therapist

The Marriage Encounter Movement uses the expression "feelings are neither right or wrong, they just are....." Today in our world, there is a constant flow of unresolved feelings in many areas of life. In order to be freer we need to understand our feelings and somehow utilize them to create a carefree existence.

When we allow a particular feeling to resonate in our mind, it can grow into an uncontrollable source of peril or a source of anger and/or regret over some situation in life which we have not addressed. Truthfully, it would be far easier to confront the person and face the uncomfortable feelings. It is not easy by any means, but it can be a freeing and healing experience for both parties.

What does it take to conquer such a "care fronting?" We need a willingness to speak our truth to one another. We need to hear the pain on both sides of the feelings. We need to be open to hearing each other. We need to know there is no wrong answer but a need coming from each person to be understood and not labelled.

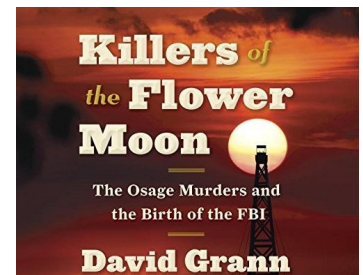
To quote Ecclesiastes, "There is a time for speaking"this is a time for healing.

Women of Grace Book Group

July 23, 7:00 pm in Nieman Annex
This month's book will be *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann.

In *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Based on years of research and startling new evidence, the book is a masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, as each step in the investigation reveals a series of sinister secrets and reversals. But more than that, it is a searing indictment of the callousness and prejudice toward American Indians that allowed the murderers to operate with impunity for so long. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is utterly compelling, but also emotionally devastating. ~ Barnes & Noble

Drop by for a lively conversation, you are most welcome!
~ Joan Nolan (973) 267-2638



GRACE-AT-A-GLANCE

Wed., July 4	<i>Independence Day—Parish Office Closed No 5:30 pm Evening Prayer</i>	
Fri., July 6	6:30 pm	Reception for Fr. Max & Paul Kline, <i>Grace Hall</i>
Sun., July 8		<i>Youth Mission Trip depart</i>
Sun., July 15	<i>Fr. Max's last Sunday at Grace</i>	
	2:30 pm	Chatham Hills Worship
July 16-July 20		Vacation Bible School, <i>All Week, Everywhere!</i>
Thurs., July 19	6:30 pm	VBS Family Night, <i>Grace Hall</i>
Thurs., July 26	2:00 pm	Pine Acres Service
Fri., Aug. 3	6:15 pm	First Friday Potluck, "Game Night", <i>Grace Hall</i>
Aug. 6-10	12:15 pm	Keyboard Series, <i>Church</i> <i>followed by lunch in Grace Hall</i>
Sat., Aug. 11	7:30 pm	BONJ Cabaret, <i>Grace Hall</i>
Sun., Aug. 12	3:00 pm	BONJ Chamber Music, <i>Church</i>
Tues., Aug. 21		Community Soup Kitchen, <i>Morristown</i>
Sun., Aug. 19	2:30 pm	Chatham Hills Service
Thurs., Aug. 23	2:00 pm	Pine Acres Service

Ongoing Weekly Groups

2nd Sunday	9:00 am	Buildings and Grounds Committee
Mondays	9:30 am	Tai Chi, <i>Grace Hall</i>
1 st Monday	7:00 pm	Mindfulness for Adults, <i>Senior High Room</i>
1 st Monday	7:00 pm	Pastoral Care, <i>Nieman Hall</i>
3 rd Monday	7:30 pm	Finance Committee, <i>Library</i>
3 rd Monday	7:00 pm	Women of Grace Book Group, <i>Nieman Annex</i>
4 th Monday	7:30 pm	Vestry Meeting
Tuesdays	7:30 pm	Craft Guild, <i>Library</i>
3 rd Tuesday	7:30 pm	Men's Book Group, <i>see Bruce Rudin for location</i>
3 rd Tuesday "even" months		Grace's Day at Community Soup Kitchen
Wednesdays	10:15 am	Women's Meditation & Centering Prayer, <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>
Fridays	7:30 am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Waverly Place Restaurant</i>



We hope you have a chance to get away this summer and enjoy some rest and re-creation. Meanwhile, Grace Church is still here, and we need to pay salaries, keep the electricity on, support our various programs. So, a reminder: If you're going away, still please keep your pledge up to date. Thank you!

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