Easter 2022

photos by Doug Moore and Nancy Lowry
**Retirement**

Dave Ulen, the Grace Church sexton for the past 22 years retired on April 29, 2022. Dave has done just about every conceivable job at the church from setting up for functions, cleaning needs, small repairs, painting, town and fire inspections, to changing out light bulbs. Not one for the “limelight,” the church staff celebrated Dave’s tenure with a staff luncheon.

**Men's Group**

The Men's Group is always looking for new members for general discussions and personal exchange. We meet on Friday mornings 7-8:30. We meet in person every other Friday of each month. (On the other Fridays we will be zooming to accommodate members who live away or are unable to attend for other reasons.) For further information contact Charlie Dickinson: lcd@polysci.umass.edu

**Over 60s Gathering**

This group meets via Zoom every Saturday at 4:00pm. If you'd like more information, or want to join us, email Rev. Adrian Stair at revadrian@comcast.net, and we'll send you an invitation.

**Prayer Circle** is still here!

We are ready to pray for the needs of those in crisis who want a degree of anonymity. Names will be held in confidence by members of the Circle and will not be published outside Circle members. Names will remain on the list for a month, unless otherwise requested. If you would like to be prayed for in this way, or would like to make a request for a loved one, please contact MJ Fowler (mjfowler3@comcast.net).

**Palestinian Oil**

Palestinian olive oil will be available for sale by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship in the Connector on the first Sunday of each month. It is first cold press organic and fair trade olive oil. The proceeds from the sale enable Grace to provide a scholarship for a student at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah.

Here is an example of the work being done by Teya Awwad, who is studying cooking and hotel management in the ETVTC school.

**Bible Study**

Join the Rector and others to study, and react to, the Gospel and Old Testament lesson for the following Sunday. We meet via Zoom Saturday mornings at 10am. Email Tom at tsvnan@gracechurchamherst.org to receive the connection.

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For Ukraine

A Prayer for Peace in Our Time

O God, author and giver of peace,
in whose image and likeness each of us has been created
with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth
and destined for eternal glory,
Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth,
from our human family torn by violent conflict:

Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God,
that peace which, as your son Jesus Christ told us
and as we have experienced in these days,
is a peace which the world cannot give.

To world leaders grant the wisdom
to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and nation
to that common humanity that makes us all your children
and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge
or even in the cause of justice,
grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue
and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror,
especially the frightened children,
be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.

And to those who have already lost their lives
as victims of human cruelty and warfare,
open wide your arms and enfold them all
in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

- Peter J. Scagnelli
Book Lovers Needed!

If you (or someone you know) loves books, this could be for you! The book area of the St. Nicholas Bazaar is in need of a couple of people to set up the book area for the bazaar. Bazaar set-up happens on the Thursday and Friday before sale day. The books would be in boxes in the downstairs of the Connector on Thursday morning, and need to be set out on tables, usually divided into broad categories, such as children's, fiction, etc. Interested? Questions? Contact Joan (jobrien82@gmail.com). Thank you!

VACCINATION INFORMATION

For information on local covid testing sites, please check https://www.amherstcovid19.org/testing or https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing

For information on local vaccine clinics, please check https://www.amherstcovid19.org/vaccine.

Who is eligible to get a booster?
1st booster
• Everyone age 12 and older can get a booster after they have had their primary vaccine series
2nd booster
• Anyone age 50 and older may get a 2nd booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
• Anyone age 18 and older with certain medical conditions may get a 2nd booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster
• Anyone age 12 and older with certain medical conditions may get a second booster at least 4 months after their 1st booster

More information on COVID-19 vaccines and boosters is here. Individuals can book an appointment online, by calling 2-1-1, or by calling individual vaccination sites where phone options are available. While there is one website Massachusetts residents can use to find public-facing vaccine locations in the state (vaxfinder.mass.gov), you may still need to click through multiple web pages to find more information about each site and to book an appointment.

Tea and Titles

Tea & Titles meets once or twice a month at 3:30 pm in the Connector to share and discuss books recently read. For more information, please contact Jude Wobst at judith.wobst@gmail.com

Senior Composition Thesis
Amherst College
Musical Theatre
by Sebastian Son

Sunday, May 8, 2022
3:00 pm
Grace Church Parish Hall

www.gracechurchamherst.org
Outreach!

Our Easter Outreach Offering brought in $8305.00, which will be divided among the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Tabletovochki Foundation in Kyiv, and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

Garden Ministry Volunteers

The Garden Ministry maintains the gardens around Grace Church including the Goodwin Garden on Spring Street, the Parish Hall Walkway garden, the Columbarium and the Garth plantings. We need volunteers for the summer. This involves weeding, deadheading, pruning and generally keeping the plants healthy. We hold workdays but individuals are also welcome to come on their own to work in specific areas. Novices are welcome as well as experienced gardeners. According to some people, "You are closer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth." Please contact Sherry Wilson to volunteer. (sherrywilson135@comcast.net or 256-6955).

Iconography Workshop

An ongoing iconography workshop meets every Sunday afternoon, from noon to four in the Parish Hall. Previous artistic experience is not necessary, since icon writing is as much a contemplative process of an inner spiritual journey as it is an artistic discipline. Please contact Sandy Lillydahl at slillydahl@library.umass.edu for additional information.

A Week with Grace

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<td>Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer</td>
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<td>Choir rehearsal</td>
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<td>Men’s Group (alternate weeks)</td>
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<td>Zoom Over 60s Gathering</td>
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Note: Masks are optional.
ClimateAction@Grace

Climate Change Prayer

Holy God,
earth and air and water are your creation,
and every living thing belongs to you:
have mercy on us
as climate change confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage
to simplify the way we live,
to reduce the energy we use,
to share the resources you provide,
and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes
and send us your Spirit,
  with wisdom in present controversies
  and vision for the future to which you call us
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change

Wednesday, May 11th at 10:45

Calling all ages to be part of the 11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change
Wednesday, May 11 at 10:45. Join friends and neighbors for prayer and
meditation before the 11th hour ringing begins. No one is too young; no one is
too old. This is an invitation to join religious groups across the country and
beyond to express our hope and determination that together we can act boldly to
address the climate crisis. All are invited to come to Grace Church. Our church bell
will be rung for 11 minutes on the 11th day of each month at 11 AM. After the bells
ring, everyone will have a chance to make a joyful noise of resolve. Bring your cow
bells, dinner bells, kazoos, and gongs, drums, cymbals, and noise makers of any kind.
Signs and banners are encouraged. Who knows, maybe some folks passing by will stop
and join in or at least catch the spirit of what committed people can do when joined
together in faith.

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Thanks to all of you who either contributed to or looked at the April community discussion board, around the topic "Holding Together Sorrow and Joy."

One person contributed that the Scripture "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream..." spoke to them in times of joy. Scripture that connected with people in times of sorrow included Jesus in the garden before being arrested and Luke chapter 7. In seasons of in-between times, one person contributed that they stayed connected to God through "routines of weekly services, rote prayers." Other spiritual practices mentioned included the meaning of taking the Eucharist during times of sorrow; rehearsing the Brahms Requiem which "weaves sorrow and joy in powerful ways;" and "remembering that God welcomes all of our sorrow and all of our joy ♥"

This month, our discussion topic is Mysticism May. During the month of May, the Episcopal Church's feast day calendar celebrates a number of mystics, including Julian of Norwich, Mechthild of Madgeburg, Johann Arndt, and Jacob Boehme. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy defines mystical experience as an "experience granting acquaintance of realities or states of affair that are of a kind not accessible by way of sense perception...or standard introspection." There is a mystic tradition within Christianity, but also within -- and outside! -- many other world religions as well. Stop by the board for some quotes from mystics to reflect on and respond to, and to share your thoughts on how, if at all, the idea of mysticism speaks to your spiritual life.

Some nature photos from Doug Moore
Children’s & Youth Ministry Updates for May

**Sunday School**
Our Kindergarten – 5th grade Sunday School class continues to meet on Sunday morning 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall and, when weather permits, in the Garth/church courtyard. Join us as we journey with one Bible study over the course of several weeks – engaging in each story through a variety of creative methods like drama, art, music, and games.

**Liturgy in the Chapel**
The Third Sunday of the month, we hold a short worship service for children & families called Liturgy in the Chapel. This month, we’ll hold Liturgy in the Chapel on May 15th. We gather from 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Participants in Sunday School are still welcome to show up at 9:15 a.m. for a mini-lesson! If weather permits, we will gather for worship outside in the Garth. Otherwise, we will be in the Chapel.

**Youth Group**
Our youth group (grades 6-12) will meet twice this month.

On Sunday, May 1st, we’ll meet to grab bubble tea together after church! We will leave church from The Connector at around 12:10 p.m. and go to LimeRed. Bubble tea is the church’s treat. No agenda or set discussion topic – just a time to connect and hopefully, if nice out, enjoy bubble tea outside together.

On Sunday, May 22nd, we’ll continue our monthly sessions around the topic of faith and wellness, again after the 10:30 a.m. service. More details on the 22nd to come soon; we’ll plan on sharing lunch together!

**Looking Ahead**
Children’s ministries and youth group continue through early June and then take a break for the summer, with the exception of some special events. Stay tuned for announcements about the last class/youth group sessions for this school year!

Summer will also be a time where we work on brainstorming and planning for the upcoming program year, which will include a Confirmation class. If you’d like to schedule a time this summer to chat about ideas for children’s & youth ministry, I’d love to meet with you!

As always, please be in touch with any questions. You can reach me by calling the office or emailing mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org for more information. If you aren’t already receiving my weekly parent/guardian emails, let me know so I can make sure you are getting the most up-to-date information on our events! These weekly emails also include a number of resources to explore faith together at home, especially when you aren't able to be with us in person.

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Campus & Young Adult Ministry Updates

If you’re a student reading this, you likely have finals coming up and may be going away for the summer! We’ve so enjoyed your participation in our community this school year and hope to continue to be a spiritual home for you in the Fall! If you are sticking around for the summer, please shoot me an email (mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org) and let me know. Would love to help plan some events to ensure you still have plenty of community over the summer! And of course – wherever you are – feel free to stay in touch!

Of course, many of our young adults live in the area, so we will continue young adult events throughout spring & summer regardless! Towards the end of May, I will be co-hosting our monthly Theology on Tap, a group that brings people together locally across various churches/ministries for supportive and casual conversation on life and faith over drinks and food. This event is open to all ages but is especially suited for young adults to get together! Typically this is on a Thursday evening at 6 p.m. at a restaurant/bar in either Amherst or Northampton. More details on May’s gathering to come soon. Email me (mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org) if you haven’t been receiving Theology on Tap emails but would be interested.

We also continue to be active in the Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network, a group that brings together Episcopalians & young people connected to Episcopal communities ages 18-40 for growth in faith & friendship. Stay tuned for details about upcoming in-person events that will give chances to connect with young adults across the region! In the meantime, you can connect with the group over Discord, where people share prayer requests, announcements, memes, etc. Email me for the link!

Raising the Questions

Raising the Questions (RtQ) is a Grace Church reading and discussion group that has been meeting for about five years. Prior to COVID, we met monthly and discussed a variety of topics related to theology, liturgical language, and images of God. During COVID we met intermittently by Zoom. RtQ compiled the booklet of alternate prayers that was available in the back of the church during Lent and was the source for discussion in the Lenten discussion group on liturgy and language.

Now that the church is opening up, we plan to start meeting in person again. While we do not know the date and time for meeting yet, let Nancy Lowry (saunteringdog@gmail.com) know if you are interested. Meetings are always open.

Bellringers for the 10:30 service

We are reconstituting the bellringers – a band of parishioners who ring the tower bell at certain times during the consecration at the 10:30 service. If you are interested in learning how to do this, email Nancy Lowry (saunteringdog@gmail.com), talk with Tom or Megan, or drop a message to the Grace Church office.

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A Message from the Pastoral Care Commission

Traditionally the Pastoral Care Committee has been a way for people in the church to support parishioners who are going through a hard time. For many years, Jeannette Stebbins chaired this committee that provided meals, rides to appointments, and cards for parishioners in need of condolence or connection. In recent weeks, Tom and Megan asked several of us to get together on Zoom to think about pastoral care going forward, particularly in response to the challenges of the pandemic: increased isolation, illness or the life-complicating threat of illness, and so many difficult transitions and losses.

Holy Communion Distribution
Given the evolving needs of this time, an idea came up to provide a way for people who currently aren’t able or comfortable coming to church to receive communion. If you would like to have the host delivered to your home so you can participate more fully in communion, please get in touch with Terrie Korpita in the parish office and/or Gail Gnatek, and we will arrange for this to happen.

Seeking Support
If you or a family member are finding yourself in a situation of need, where basics of food or transportation to doctors' appointments are difficult or you’re going through more than you can handle on your own, please reach out. We will do our best to support you.

Offering Support
If you feel called to help with pastoral care, we welcome you. Please get in touch with Gail Gnatek about opportunities to participate. There are many ways to offer help: cooking, baking, delivering food, writing cards, checking in over the phone, or giving someone a ride. There are many ways to express compassion.

Gail Gnatek, Karen DeSantis, Maria Dye, Ruthie Ireland, Anna Smith

Contact information:
genatek@email.com or
tkorpita@gracechurchamherst.org
(413) 256-6754
Haiti Ministry

A visit with Père Decamps – coming soon!

Please welcome a special guest of the Haiti ministry, Père (Father) Walin Decamps, who will be visiting Grace on May 7-10. Père Decamps serves the church of St. Matthieu in Bayonnais and supervises our partner school there, together with the larger parish of St. Basile in Gonaïves and its school La Rédemption. This will be our first time meeting him in person. We’re excited!

We warmly encourage your presence on Sunday, May 8, for the Eucharist and a presentation. Père Decamps will be at the altar at both services, and at coffee hour after the early service. After the 10:30 service, we’ll offer a brief presentation and a time for questions. Père Decamps speaks English as well as French and Krëyol, and we hope for some good conversations.

In addition to business meetings and tours of the town and campuses, **we’ll be sharing some community resources** relevant to Père Decamps’s work – sustainable agriculture, a children’s library, a net-zero-energy building, and perhaps more. Friends of the Haiti Ministry are invited to join us on these tours, but numbers may be limited. See Bonnie Vigeland or Sandy Muspratt for details. We are grateful to Jim and Amelia Mead, Astarte Farm, the Jones Library, and Hampshire College.

People of the Haiti Ministry

*Continuing our intermittent series about the participants in this ministry, here are introductions to three Grace Church members.*

**Bonnie Vigeland, co-chair:** I am relatively new to Grace Church and to the Haiti Ministry, although I’ve lived in the Valley all of my adult life, raised my family here and worked here. Looking at the problems of Haiti – enormous, complex and long-standing – it is easy to get discouraged and overwhelmed. But I’ve gotten involved with St Matthew’s school in Bayonnais because this Ministry offers the chance to make a real difference, addressing those problems directly and meaningfully in a local community by supporting its children’s education. As a retired librarian, I am especially excited to see the development of a school library there.

**Suzannah Fabing, co-founder:** I spent my working career in art museums, culminating as director of the Smith College Museum of Art from 1992 to 2005. When I retired I decided to do something entirely different, which led

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me to help start the Haiti Ministry at Grace with my husband, Sandy, in 2008. I find that my past experience carries over. Fundraising and donor cultivation, writing grant applications, long-range planning and engaging college students have all proven relevant to the work of the Haiti Committee. I greatly enjoyed serving as coordinator in Amherst for the summer arts camps held at St. Matthieu’s School every other year from 2011 to 2019.

*John Stifler:* I've spent some time in impoverished areas of the world – Nepal, parts of India and Sri Lanka, a visit to Honduras – and I persist in believing that it's important to pay attention and do something, anything, that may be useful in those places. In 2012, I heard an announcement in church that the Haiti committee needed someone to go to Bayonnais along with a videographer and record interviews with school and community members there. I'm used to interviewing people frequently, and I'd been vaguely thinking about wanting to go to Haiti, so I volunteered. After that trip, I joined this group. I can speak French reasonably well -- enough to talk with the teachers, all of whom speak French. I'm grateful for that extra linguistic access to a place and a society so different from the one I live in at home.

**New members are always welcome.** Our next regular meeting is Tuesday, June 7, at 5:00 p.m., at the church and on Zoom. For more information contact co-chair Bonnie Vigeland or Sandy Muspratt, or any member of the ministry.

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**Novi Cantori**

**More Waters Rising**

Saturday, May 21 at 7 pm, Grace Church in Amherst, MA

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**DaCamera Singers**

*"AS ONE WE MORE ABOUND"*

Works to be performed include:
Tomás Luis de Victoria, O Magnum Mysterium
René Clausen, O Magnum Mysterium

Two settings of Il bianco e dolce cigno (Arcadelt and Vecchi)

Monteverdi, Lasciatemi morire

**PLUS A WORLD PREMIERE:**
CRAIG SANDFORD, EIGHT POEMS OF WENDELL BERRY

Sunday, May 15 at 5:00 p.m.
Grace Episcopal Church, 14 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst, MA

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<td>10:00 am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>10:00 am AA</td>
<td>10:30 am Holy Eucharist</td>
<td>11:30 am Reception for Pere D'encamps</td>
<td>12:00 pm “Reason To Live” Play</td>
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<td>11:00 am Bell Ringing</td>
<td>12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer</td>
<td>7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>12:10 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 with Healing Prayer</td>
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<td>7:00 pm AA</td>
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Coffee hour follows Sunday morning services and provide an opportunity for parish fellowship and for welcoming and becoming acquainted with newcomers.
“Grace is nothing else but a certain beginning of glory in us.”
--Thomas Aquinas

Grace Episcopal Church, located on the Town Common of Amherst, is a community of prayer and action. If you want to connect with God or if you are seeking a deeper knowledge of God, and you would like to do this with a community that cares for you and honors you, then Grace Church is the place for you. Our doors are open to one and all, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. We love because God first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Discover true life and true love at Grace Church.

Service Schedule

Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 12:10 pm Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer
Friday 5:30 pm Evensong

See our website, www.gracechuchamherst.org for updates