The Gift of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4a)

Within days of Jesus’ final appearance, the disciples received, as promised, the Holy Spirit, which made them full participants in Christ’s mission. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples went out that first Pentecost Sunday and boldly began to preach the Good News to peoples from all parts of the then known world: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome. (Acts 2:9-10)

Their message was a unifying one that was understandable to all. Here, in an instant, the Spirit worked the miracle of undoing the sin of the Tower of Babel which happened long before and is recorded in the Book of Genesis. In that story humanity united and built a tower to storm heaven by force. This act of hubris resulted in confusion of speech and the division of people. But now through Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit that no longer needs to be the case. The message of Jesus is universal. It is for everyone. No one is left out and no people is excluded from the Good News or from the community of faith. All are truly welcome.

The disciples were together when they received the Holy Spirit and they all received the same spirit. No disciple that day became a participant in Christ’s mission in isolation. Together they were transformed into a true community. As stated in the Catechism: “The Church is the community of the New Covenant”, and it “carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.” (Book of Common Prayer 854-55)

Christianity requires community and we all need community. We all need to be part of something greater than ourselves, and ministry is not the work of a few, but of everyone. In the last year as we have gradually moved back in the direction of in-person gathering, the desire and need for interpersonal connection were clearly manifested. We need one another and God wants everyone.

Looking ahead, I wonder what the Holy Spirit may call us to do and to become. Hopefully with God’s help we will continue moving towards a normalization of church life. The coming days, weeks, and months could be some of the most exciting for us, because this is a time of transformation. I’m reminded of the prayer that is said on Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 280 and 291)
The Good News is that God is still with us and the Holy Spirit is still working through us. We are a community that’s constantly renewed, restored, and reborn. New life is emerging, and the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. With her help, ordinary people can do extraordinary things as a community united.

Dear friends, this Pentecost – catch the Spirit. May the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith, send us forth to proclaim a universal message of Good News, and continue to form us into a community of care. Oh, happy days!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Tom Synan

Our summer service schedule begins Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, with one service at 9:30am. The regular service schedule will resume on Sunday, September 11th.

Raising the Questions

Raising the Questions (RtQ) is a Grace Church reading and discussion group that has been meeting for about five years. 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.

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).

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.

Welcome to Our New Sexton!

Please welcome David Goodhind, our new Sexton. David is a retired general contractor, and has also worked as handyman for the Common School. He lives in South Amherst with his wife Lynne.
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!

Outreach!

Our May Outreach Offering brought in $1,591.00 for the Navajoland Episcopal Area Mission.

Generosity changes everything, starting with us.

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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.

Iconography Workshop

An ongoing iconography workshop meets every Sunday afternoon, from 11:30am - 4:00pm 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.

www.gracechurchamherst.org
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).

Spring Clean-Up

The Grace Church Spring clean-up went well, organized by Sherry Wilson. On Saturday April 30, the following parishioners helped make the grounds on the Grace Church campus look beautiful: Steve Atkinson, Tom Baker and Mary Hocken, Paul Bracciotti and Marie Dye, Jeffrey DeSantis, Sara Liberty Laylin and Peter Laylin, Sandy Muspratt, Virginia Ramos and yours truly. With so many hands the weeding, composting, pruning and mulching (five yards were ordered with another 5 more needed for the Garth area) went by quickly.

On a special note, we would like to thank the Erards Jeanette and Mike for maintaining the Columbarium Garden for so many years, Sarah Chadwick and Helen Drake will be taking over the care of this beautiful area going forward. - Tom Dougherty, Junior Warden

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. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16th at 3:30pm. For more information, please contact Jude Wobst at judith.wobst@gmail.com
All are welcome!

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Grace Notes Notes

Summer at Grace

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Holy Eucharist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Coffee Hour</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Alanon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12:10 pm</td>
<td>Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Men’s Group (alternate weeks)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Evensong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Zoom Bible Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Zoom Over 60s Gathering</td>
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Note: Masks are optional.

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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 tsynan@gracechurchamherst.org to receive the connection.

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Grace Notes

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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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.

11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change

Saturday, June 11th at 10:45

Calling all ages to be part of the 11th Hour Bell Ringing for Climate Change Saturday, June 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, kazoo, 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.

www.gracechurchamherst.org
Join the June Discussion at our Community Conversation Board

Last month, our community conversation board explored the topic of mysticism and featured quotes from three mystics whose feast days were celebrated in May: Mechthild of Madgeburg, Julian of Norwich, and Jacob Boehme. Be sure to look them up if you want to continue your exploration of mysticism! Parishioner contributions included a shout-out to one person’s favorite mystic Teresa of Avila, a quotation from Gerardus Van der Leeuw (“The mystery of life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”), and an observation that the ringing of the bells during the consecration at Communion “evokes the mystical.”

This month’s conversation board, in honor of Pentecost (June 5th), will be centered on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is often seen as the most mysterious & ill-defined member of the Trinity. What images or stories help you to connect to the Holy Spirit? How, where, and when do you understand God’s Spirit as being present in the world? In you? Share your thoughts on these questions and more, throughout this month, at the bulletin board you can find in the Connector.

Photos by Doug Moore

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Use of Enriching Our Worship Beginning Sunday, June 19th

Starting June 19th, we will be using the Episcopal Church’s Enriching our Worship liturgical resource for the summer season. You will notice slight changes to some prayers, as well as a new Eucharistic prayer. Some of you may already be familiar with this resource from past uses at Grace Church.

Many of you know that the Episcopal Church’s worship is primarily founded on the Book of Common Prayer. However, Enriching Our Worship is also available as a supplementary resource.

Enriching Our Worship was created to address a need for what is sometimes called “inclusive” or “expansive” language. Inclusive or expansive language seeks to approach and envision God through a broader range of titles, metaphors, and images than are sometimes traditionally included in Christian worship.

Following the class offered this Lent on Language & Liturgy, we are excited to have an opportunity to explore alternative liturgical language as a whole worshipping community. You’ll be able to find more information on Enriching Our Worship in an introduction included in your bulletins this summer.
Children’s & Youth Ministry: Summer Events & Gratitude for this School Year

Upcoming summer events

K-5th grade Sunday School and Liturgy in the Chapel both take a break over the summer as we switch to having only one service at 9:30 a.m. Because of this, our last Liturgy in the Chapel for the year was in May, and our last Sunday School class was May 29th. Regular youth group sessions will also be on break for the summer.

However, we do still have some special events coming up!

On Saturday, June 11th from 8:30-9:30 a.m., we’ll be joining with First Church Amherst’s children’s ministries for a playground meet-up at Groff Park. I will bring some treats! It should be a good time for kids to connect with each other and for parents/guardians to connect & socialize. Focused on elementary school & younger – but open to anyone whose kids might enjoy Groff Park!

For a year-end youth activity (grades 6-12), we’ll go full circle and conclude the year how we started it – with mini-golf! This time however, we’ll meet at McCray’s Farm in South Hadley, where we’ll also be able to grab lunch and – most importantly – ice cream! Tentatively I’m planning for this to be Saturday, June 18th at noon. There are also a few other dates & times we could look at if this time doesn’t work for people; please be in touch if you’re interested but have a scheduling conflict.

Later this month, we will be acknowledging graduates at one of our Sunday services. If you or your child has graduated (anything from preschool graduation to graduate program is welcome!), please get that information to Terrie at tkorpita@gracechurchamherst.org so we can recognize, celebrate, and pray for them.

I’ve also been exploring the possibility of offering a weekend service trip to Worcester, connecting with Episcopal churches/ministries there, in either late summer or early fall, open to youth in grades 6-12 plus recent graduates. More details to come!

Additionally, I hope to organize some Grace Church family meet-ups at some of the fun, summer events in our area. If you have other ideas for how we might stay connected over the summer, please feel free to let me know.

Lastly, summer is a time where I try to devote energy to brainstorming and planning for the program year ahead. I would love to schedule some meetings this summer – perhaps outside over an iced tea/coffee! – to connect with parents and/or youth and see what your needs and hopes are for the year coming up, what you connected with this year, what you’d like to see that we haven’t been able to do this year or throughout the
pandemic, etc. If you’d be up for connecting to help think through what Grace Church might offer children & youth for the 2022-2023 school year, please email me so we can find a time to meet!

A look back at this past school year

To all of our families with kids – I just want to say: THANK YOU! Thank you for the flexible spirit as our ministries shifted and adjusted in this stage of the pandemic; thank you for your participation in this year’s activities; and thank you for your communication, including those who made sure to touch base even when they weren’t quite ready to come back to church yet.

Our K-5th grade Sunday School class, taught by me, met on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. throughout the school year. We used a curriculum called Sparkhouse Rotation to dive into a number of Bible stories through creative methods, including art, games, and drama. To me, one of the most meaningful parts of the class though has simply been having the kids read the Bible stories out loud and allowing them space to ask questions about what they hear!

Third Sundays of the month, we returned to in-person Liturgy in the Chapel services, held from 9:45-10:15 a.m. Sometimes we held these outside also. These short services allowed children & their families to experience worship & Communion in a child-centered, interactive way. Because of Covid risk, instead of singing together, we’ve begun a practice of incorporating movement prayers into the service.

Meanwhile, our youth group for grades 6-12 typically gathered at least once a month, if not more often. We had a monthly series on faith and wellness where we connected our Christian faith with how we care for our hearts, minds, and bodies – usually chatting outside over food together, when possible. We also had a number of fun events for connection and community building – including a trip to Mike’s Maze, bowling at Pinz, getting bubble tea at LimeRed, rock climbing, and mini golf (some of these in collaboration with our friends & neighbors over at First Congregational Church). During Lent, we also gathered for prayer over Zoom.

Many of our children & youth came together for a successful, in-person Christmas pageant after only being able to offer a virtual one in 2020; for a meaningful children’s Stations of the Cross service on Good Friday; and for Easter egg hunts after both services on Easter morning.

In the last few months, acolytes have also been a welcome addition to our services again, thanks to the organizing efforts of Trent Maxey. We are also indebted to Nancy Lowry who served in this important role for many years prior to the pandemic and has passed the baton to Trent.

Meanwhile, I have also been sending resources (coloring and activity pages, sometimes videos, etc.) for families to use at home out by weekly email as either a supplement to these in-person activities or a substitute for those who can’t yet join us in-person. Though my emails will not be weekly throughout the summer, I will continue to
Grace Notes

touch base and provide materials as I can! If you have read this far and aren’t on my parent/guardian email list, please let me know.

It has been a very full school year, and with the waxing and waning of Covid-19, still full of its own challenges. Again, I am thankful for all the cooperation and grace with which children, youth, and parents have engaged with these ministries!

-- Rev. Megan

Abigail, Tyler, and Amory were confirmed this past December after completing a youth Confirmation class in the 2020-21 school year.

Summer Gatherings for Young Adults & College Students

Are you a student staying on-campus or in the area for the summer? I know summer can often feel like an isolating time as much of your community might be returning home or traveling. Please let me know if you’re staying in the Amherst area and would like to go for coffee/tea or lunch sometime this summer. This offer also applies to young adults who are in the area year-round as well! Let’s take advantage of this summer weather & catch up! Email me at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org to schedule something.

Another way to plug into community as a young adult this summer is through weekly Bible studies with the Western Mass. Young Adult Ministry Network, also known as YAMN. YAMN connects young adults (defined as ages 18-40) throughout Western Massachusetts for growth in faith and friendship. Our Bible studies meet online every week on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. If you aren’t already part of the Discord, you can join in by typing in this link: https://discord.gg/dnAh3v7x37

The Young Adult Ministry Network is also planning in-person events for both the summer & the fall! Stay tuned for more info about events that will provide chances to connect with others in the Pioneer Valley and also with some of our fellow young adult Episcopalians in other areas of Western Massachusetts. Please email me at mmcdermott@gracechurchamherst.org if you think you might not be on the list for young adult events, OR if you would be interested in being on a planning committee for these events.

With other local ministers, I will also continue to organize Theology on Tap events over the summer – though we will try to take advantage of meeting outside when the weather is amenable! Location & date for our June event will be announced soon. Again, please reach out to me if you haven’t been receiving emails about those events. They are informal gatherings to talk about life and faith, open to all ages but with a special welcome for young adults, that meet monthly on a Thursday evening, often but not always at a bar or restaurant in Northampton or Amherst. When at a restaurant, the ministry provides free appetizers to enjoy!

Have other ideas about how young adults might come together over this summer season? Let me know!

-- Rev. Megan

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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 (gnatek@gmail.com) 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. You may leave your name with Terrie Korpita (tkorpita@gracechurchamherst.org or (413) 256-6754) in the office.

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

Planned Giving – Your Will, Trust and Other Options for Beneficiary Designations

There are many ways through your estate plans to provide future support for your loved ones and for organizations important to you, such as Grace Church. A periodic review is wise to take into consideration changing circumstances. Updating designations in your will or trust are common and warrant review with your lawyer, but minor updates for individual or institutional beneficiaries may also be achieved through:

1. a simple codicil to your will (with modest legal fees)
2. designating portions of a life insurance policy
3. designating portions of a retirement plan (most 401(k), 403(b), and IRAs) keeping in mind the designations already made in your will or trust

You are welcome to contact Planned Giving Committee members Doug Adler, Kent Faerber or Jean Rankin with questions.
A visit with our Haitian colleague

We were delighted to spend a long weekend with Père Walin Decamps, the new priest at St. Matthieu church and school, and at St. Basile in Gonaïves. We were impressed with his professional experience, personal dedication, and spiritual devotion. He has developed several other schools and is also involved in an agricultural project, in addition to his ministries in the church. He also brought us sobering news of the increasing challenges that Haitians face in the current political situation: street violence, kidnappings for ransom, food shortages, gasoline shortages and more. Clergy are sometimes targeted.

The visit incorporated Sunday liturgies and gatherings, business meetings, tours to places of interest, and social time. Père Walin met with representatives of another church that may be interested in partnering with us. About two dozen parishioners joined us for a presentation, bringing thoughtful comments and questions. Several members of the committee hosted meals.

The tours were informative and cheerful. Astarte Farm welcomed Père Walin on Sunday afternoon for an introduction to no-till farming and farm ecology. There were lively discussions of wells and water technology, cover-cropping, and other subjects. At the Jones Library on Monday, a librarian showed us the children’s collections and discussed programming, take-home activities, and ways to encourage young readers. (We had also hoped to tour a school library, but the schools are not admitting visitors at this time.) The final visit was to the Kern Center at Hampshire College, a sustainable “living building.” Many of its features — such as water collecting, local construction materials, and renewable energy — could be applicable in Haiti.

Several important concerns emerged from the business meeting and other conversations. They call for some reflection — we want to be sure that whatever we undertake can be sustained into the future, and we are mindful that parishioners’ resources are finite. At the same time, we have always tried to follow our Haitian partners’ lead rather than imposing our own priorities. With that balance in mind, here are the areas where Père Walin believes that further development is desirable:

Adding grades 7-9, and possibly more. Many families cannot afford to send their children to Gonaïves for further schooling, and they often need a child’s help at home. For classroom space, we would need to add a second floor to the existing building.
Solar panels, Internet access (via cell-phone networks), and computers.
Transportation for the teachers, and a place to stay overnight. The existing motorbikes are already breaking down. Gasoline is very expensive and sometimes unavailable.
A school garden, including a well. Produce would improve nutrition in school lunches, and any surplus could be sold. Also, improving the school kitchen.
Building up the music program and the library.
Developing vocational sewing classes for adults.
A nighttime security guard (there have been several break-ins), a first-aid kit, and other supports.

The committee asked questions about:
Limiting enrollment at the school. Père Walin is reluctant to turn children away, but we are concerned about sustaining unlimited growth.
Parental contributions — if not cash, then perhaps food or security services?
Whether it is better to add capacity at St. Matthieu or to offer scholarships to other schools after sixth grade. We also noted our search for partnerships with other churches and perhaps schools, for ongoing support and for special projects.

These were useful conversations with much food for thought. It was a real blessing to be able to have them in person. We thank Père Walin for sharing his vision and outlining some goals.

We also thank Sharon Sharry and Clare Bertrand of the Jones Library; Sara Draper of the Kern Center, Hampshire College; Amelia Mead, Jim Mead, Dan Pratt, and Anna Smith of Astarte Farm; Tom Synan and Megan McDermott for their support; Sandy and Suzannah Muspratt for hosting Père Walin and for organizing the weekend; John Stifler and Laura and Lynn Klock for driving to and from Logan Airport; Mary Hocken and Tom Baker, Bonnie and Carl Vigeland, and Sandy and Suzannah Muspratt for hosting meals; Bonnie Vigeland and Patty Appelbaum for hosting tours; Sandy for the presentation, and all the parishioners who took an interest; anyone I’ve inadvertently left out; and everyone who welcomed Père Walin.

– Patty Appelbaum

NEWS BRIEFS

Why is Haiti poor? A few years after Haiti won independence, France extorted reparations payments at gunpoint. A hundred years later, the United States occupied Haiti and absorbed substantial revenue. What might have happened if Haiti had been able to keep all that money? Read the new research on this story in the New York Times series “The Ransom.” This link is to the “takeaways”:

Coming up: The need for uniforms and school supplies is ongoing, even as we think about future hopes. We’ll be raising funds during the summer. We are so grateful for your past support, and we ask you to prayerfully consider helping out again this year.

Join us! The Haiti ministry welcomes new members. The next meeting is June 7 at 5 p.m., at the church and on Zoom. Right now we have particular needs for database management and tech skills, but there is room for many different kinds of participation!
Conversations with Love:
Pipe Organ Contemplations

Music can express a deep intimacy between the composer and life, an intimacy that provides space for the spectrum of human emotion, from sorrow to joy to wonder.

One way this intimacy is expressed is in what could be called conversations, conversations taking place in many dimensions - between melody and harmony, between subsequent phrases, between composer and performer, between performer and audience, and even between the composer and the love that encompasses the heart of the universe, by some called God.

This concert will include 12 short pieces for pipe organ plus brief contemplations on spiritual elements of the conversations they imply. Composers include Bach, Mendelssohn, Bohm, Pachelbel, Rheinberger, Vierne, and Vincent.

About Kell Julliard
Kell has played piano and flute since his youth. He is currently studying pipe organ under Andrus Madsen (Newton Baroque) and formerly under John Wolfe, PhD (St. Philip’s Episcopal in Brooklyn, and Rutgers University). Kell served as the assistant organist for Christ Church in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, playing as its principal organist for the holy seasons of 2020. Kell is a senior facilitator for the Tergar Meditation Community’s Joy of Living meditation training program and for 25 years served as director of clinical research for a large health system in Brooklyn, New York.

www.gracechurchamherst.org
This Shining Night

A farewell concert for Dr. Tony Thornton
featuring Morten Lauridsen’s *Lux Aeterna*

June 11, 2022, 7 PM
Grace Episcopal Church,
14 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst

For ticket information and COVID guidelines, visit
www.illuminatiensemble.org

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This program is supported in part by a grant from the Amherst Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

www.gracechurchamherst.org
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Return Service Requested

“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.

Summer Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 12:10 pm Rite I Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer
Friday 5:30 pm Evensong

See our website, www.gracechurchamherst.org for updates