



## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER

### Christ be our Light

At Grace Church, as at many Episcopal churches, when we baptize a child we also hand them (or their parent or godparent!) a candle lit from the Paschal Candle. By this point in the rite, children are usually tired of having some stranger pour water on them and smear oil on their head, and pray over them with a loud microphone. Sometimes they are a bit cranky, since usual naptime was preempted by the christening. But despite their discomfort, most babies and just about all toddlers and older children are mesmerized by the candle in front of them.

"You are the light of Christ" I tell the newly-baptized as they stare at the flame, "Be Christ's light in the world". We send the candle home with the family, and with some luck, mom and dad can find it again in order to light it briefly on the anniversaries of the child's baptism.



Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Our Advent wreath, a liturgical innovation in the US of the last century, depicts for us the gradually increasing light as we count down to the birth of the Christ Child and to his return.

This year we can't be together in our beautiful church, to see the restraint of the Ad-



vent decoration, and the week-by-week brightening of our Advent wreath. But lighting the Advent wreath was originally something families observed at home, often at the dinner-table. To see each candle lit, and perhaps have a brief prayer every night was how families marked the waiting and preparation for the feast of God's entry into human history in the Incarnation.

## MOTHER CATHY'S CORNER— CONT.

In a modern twist on this practice, we will incorporate recordings of the lighting of home Advent wreaths into each online Sunday service, culminating with the lighting of the church's Advent wreath on Christmas Eve. If you would like to volunteer, please give me a call. Advent wreaths may have candles of the familiar purple or purple and pink, or four white candles, or even (in a nod to German and English practice) four red candles. If you've never had an Advent wreath at home, perhaps this is the year to create one from whatever materials you have available, as a reminder that

*Cathy* +

you are, indeed, the Light of Christ.

## CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

**(Schedule subject to change – check our website for the latest)**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 4:00 PM**

Outdoor Holy Eucharist in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting), bring your own lawn chair or cushion. Limited numbers permitted, RSVPs requested to the church office.



**December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 7:00 PM**

premier (pre-recorded) Holy Eucharist for Christmas with music, followed by “cider & cookies” live on Zoom to exchange Christmas greetings.

Watch *Grace Community This Week* for details.

## NOVEMBER VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- After careful consideration, Grace Church will be joining in the Diocesan Payroll Program which will address our payroll needs while being less costly than our current service.
- We did see a drop in pledge amounts ending October 31. While being cautious with in-person services or participating in zoom services, it is easy to be away, physically and mentally, from our regular routine of dropping our pledge envelopes in the offering plate and accidentally forgetting. With preparations for 2021

budget underway, we hope to see our 2020 pledge goal received. Thanks for helping us achieve that.

- Our application for PPP Loan forgiveness is well underway. With no fund-raisers this year, this government stimulus really helped us meet our operating expenses and keep bills paid.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. This year was such a success for the baskets,



considering all the road blocks we have hit this year. The committee

put together 10 baskets for the Head Start families to enjoy a meal on Thanksgiving day.



**THANK YOU FROM HEAD START**

Some of the Head Start families were very thankful for the Thanksgiving Baskets and wrote some thanks you letter for the church. The letters are written out by the parents and some of the kids even designed them.



because we are so grateful for the wonderful Thanksgiving box! ♡ It made for a

less stressful day, giving us more time to be grateful for all of our other wonderful blessings this year.

So again, thank you so much, we cannot say it enough!

With ♡ and blessings,

Clarissa, Anthony  
and

Armani

The Elhage Family ♡



THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

We appreciate your donation so much!! ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
♡

Love Isaac's Family! ♡

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP SUSPENDED

Due to the continuing increased spread of Covid-19 in our area, our bishop has directed all parishes in the diocese to transition to

# zoom

worshipping online beginning November 29 and continuing until at least January 1, 2021. Our knowledge of how the virus is transmitted has evolved since the spring so the diocesan requirements have been adjusted. However outdoor and “drive-in” gatherings are permitted, as is live-streaming and recording with necessary participants

## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT

Want to help spread some Christmas Cheer this Holiday Season? The Outreach Committee is collecting games this year for the Christmas Bureau. These are a very popular Christmas gifts for the needy. Any games are accepted, but we especially need games for families with older children and adults.



Card Games for Family Fun Night



You can bring your donations of games to the church by December 13. You can drop them off during church offices hours, and Cate will take them or e-mail the office to schedule a time to drop the game(s) off.



## EVELYN MERCER'S SCHOLARSHIP



The friends and family of Evelyn Mercer, who passed away on September 4th, are establishing a perpetual scholarship in her name for a senior at Baldwinsville High School who will attend college as a music major. Evelyn was the organist and choir director at Grace Church for many years and a 16 year member of the Baldwinsville School Board. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, please make a check payable to the **Baldwinsville Community Scholarship Foundation, Inc.** and send it to **William**

**Mercer 25 Wilkinson Place, Baldwinsville, NY 13027.**



## THANK YOU!

The office has received thank you cards and emails from parishioners thanking Parish Life for putting together the “Thinking of you” bags. They also say that’s it is nice knowing that even though we all can’t be in church together, that our church is still thinking about their community.



## COOKIE WALK

*'Twas the season for a Cookie Walk, and all through the church, hanging up snowflakes, and candy cane poles that overtake. Gingerbread cookies danced on their plates, hoping that they will be in the same place. The community gathers with lines out the door, hoping to get there so they can adore. The café was ready for people to sit, enjoying their delicious warm treats. As the Cookie Walk came to an end, the winter wonderland left, and hopes to return the same time next year.*



Due to COVID-19, the annual Cookie Walk has been cancelled, so this year no cookie decoration occurred and the dozens of cookies were not delivered. In order to keep the bakers busy this holiday season, here is a recipe to try, from a cook book found in the office.



### **Salted Peanut Cookies**

Yields: 4 dozen

#### **Ingredients:**

2 Eggs

2 cups, brown sugar

- 1 1/2 cups butter or margarine, melted
- 6 oz. salted peanuts
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 cups oatmeal, dry
- 1 cup cornflakes



**Directions:**

- 1) Beat the eggs, add the sugar and then the melted butter. Stir in the peanuts carefully.
- 2) Mix the flour, baking soda, and baking powder together; then mix these with the oatmeal and cornflakes. Add the mixture to the first and stir well. Drop it from a spoon onto a greased baking pan. Bake the cookies at 400F about 8-10 min or until golden brown. Remove them from the pans as soon as they are taken from the oven.

**A BIG THANK YOU!**



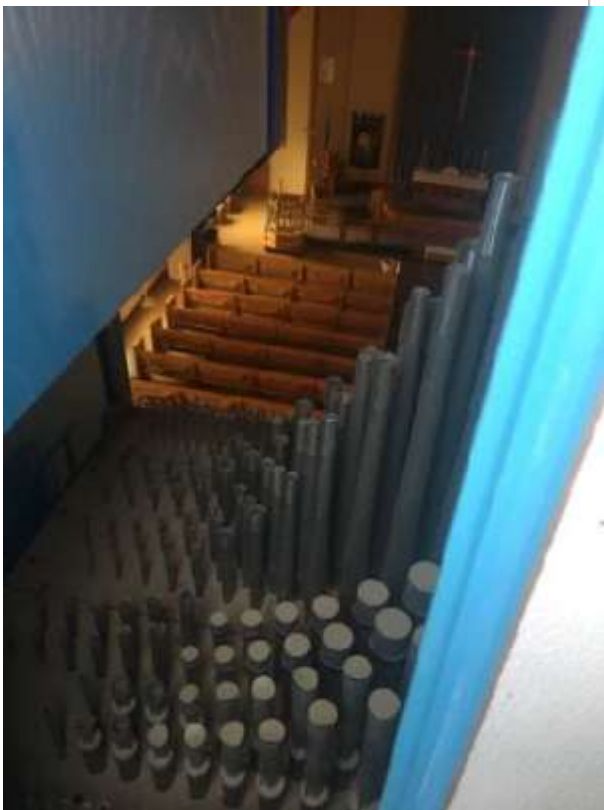
**Thank you** to those who continue to support the church by mailing in your offerings. For those who would like to make a gift without having to write a check and use the postal system, please

consider giving online by clicking the green button on the home page of our website that says, "Give." It is an easy and safe way to give to Grace.



## ORGAN TUNING WITH PICTURES

On Tuesday November 24, the organ was tuned and ready for the last Tuesday noon service. Jeff took some pictures while the tuners were there. If you are ever interested about the organ and how many different types of pipes there are, how they are set up, ask Jeff the next time we are allowed to do in-person service again. It's a very interesting, and also neat.



## Christmas Poinsettias

*We encourage you to leave your flowers through Christmas Eve services. If you will not be picking up your flowers at all, please indicate below\*, and we will distribute them.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$12.00 each = Total Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I will NOT be picking up my flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT CLEARLY all names and dedications below exactly as they should appear in the bulletin.

*e.g. "In memory of Jane Doe" or "In Thanksgiving for Thomas, Edward and Kristen"*

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