

A Grace Note from the Rector
November 16, 2023

Dear Ones,

We're nearly there! Three beautiful Stewardship Moments have been written and read; the fourth appears below. A lovely letter has been written, mailed, and read. Prayerful responses have begun to come in with your commitments of both money *and* time. **Please fill out *both* sides of the form.**

On Sunday we will gather, both in the Church at the Eucharist, and at the **Thanksgiving Brunch** in the Parish Hall, to give God thanks for "all good gifts around us." This is an important day in our life together, and I hope you will all be there! (*If you've misplaced your pledge form, or didn't receive one in the mail, fear not. I have attached one to this email, and we will have extras available on Sunday.*)

This final Stewardship Moment this year is from **Lauren Henry**.

I was blessed to find Grace with my brother Eric two years ago. We were looking for something different, something that felt like a real connection God. From the first service at Grace, we were immediately struck by how this was unlike any church community we had experienced before - this church truly welcomes the stranger. It soon became clear that those who worship here were a real community, drawn together by a common purpose and desire to worship, and further connected through social events like hospitality hour.

I value the connection I feel in our faith community. I have never before attended a church where I received so many heartfelt condolences at the passing of a loved one, helpful leads when searching for a home, or well wishes when I was ill. I love that I get to show up for others in our community in this same way. I value our worship services and feel like I always leave with something to think about, encouraged in my journey with God.

I am so happy to be involved in the Grace community through serving as a lector and as a member of the Finance Committee. I have learned through the discussions of the Finance Committee just how important annual pledges are to planning our budget, and this has inspired me to make a plan for an annual contribution. I love what Grace does for me, and it is my hope to, in whatever small ways I can, help Grace to continue its mission.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

This year's convention was wonderful. Feel free to talk to Kristi Koriath, Max Nottingham, or me about our experiences. I will let you know when the recorded sessions are available on YouTube, especially the keynote talk by Cole Arthur Riley, and the Eucharist with Bishop Jennifer's address. I **encourage all of you** to think about serving as a Convention Delegate next year.

ADULT FORMATION

The final session of our Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark will take place next Tuesday. A simple supper in the Parish Hall at 6:30 is followed by Bible Study at 7pm.

There will be **no Wednesday Eucharist next week**, November 22. I will be in Chicago to celebrate the holiday with my sister Mary and her family.

YARN AND YARNS

We are inviting all **knitters and crocheters** to join us on Wednesday, November 29, at 10am at Grace Church for knitting/crocheting and conversation. All levels of experience are welcome!

~Becky Byrum and Pam Seburu

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ellen Brinkman (November 17)

Blanche Townsend (November 18)

Don Curtis (November 21)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING

DECEMBER 2 @ 2

If you like to bake Christmas Cookies, but don't often get the chance, here's the perfect holiday event for you! Come and get flour on your hands in the Parish Hall and Kitchens. We will bake Christmas Cookies for Gathering Grace's Christmas Eve Dinner, as well as for our own Christmas Hospitality.

ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL

On Thursday, December 7 at 7pm, I will be offering a program of organ music for the Nativity Season. Reception to follow. Mark your calendars and invite your friends.

GATHERING GRACE & A BETTER WAY – WINTER PROTECTION

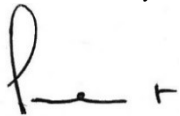
For the month of November – new or gently used gloves, hats and scarves will be collected to help prepare Gathering Grace guests and A Better Way clients for winter. Thank you for your ongoing support of those in need.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Food Pantry: Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese.

Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

God bless you in these days,



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