

Grace Church Chronicle

November 2017

Volume 31, Issue 10

To My Family of Grace,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I give thanks for all of you in my prayers daily. May His grace and truth fill your hearts and minds this Thanksgiving Season.

The onset of Autumn always brings with it a flurry of activity here at Grace and in our personal lives as well. School is in full swing, Church is in full swing, and it seems that Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. This Autumn also brings with it the stressing of our personal stewardship to God. Many people really cringe at the thought of stewardship talks and having to pledge to church at all. They approach the season with dread and trepidation. Yet, stewardship need not be all gloom and doom! All year I have been busy collecting stories about giving to God to share with you in this edition of "The Chronicle." I hope you enjoy them.

1. A Reminder: The Lord loves a cheerful giver but He'll even accept it from a grouch!
2. One church held a Sunday service patterned after those in Colonial America. The pastor was dressed in a long coat and knickers and the congregation was divided by gender: men on the left side of the aisle and women on the right. At collection time, the pastor announced that this, too, would be done in the old way. He asked the "head of the household" to come forward and place the money on the altar. The men instantly rose. To the amusement of the entire congregation, many of them crossed the aisle to get the money from their wives.
3. A priest friend of mine once told the story of a great need his church had for financial support in a crisis. Sunday morning he told the congregation about the need and asked them to bring their gift to the front of the church. The members loved their church and they loved the Lord, and they soon filled the aisles as they brought their offerings. The pastor noticed one giver above all the rest. It was a little girl who was on a pair of crutches. When she reached the front of the church, she removed a ring from her finger, and after great effort she placed it with the rest of the offerings and returned to her seat. After the service was over, the pastor looked through the gifts until he found the little girl's ring. He took it to her and said, "Honey, I saw what you did. It was beautiful, but the response of the people has been so large that we have money left over, so we do not need your ring. I have brought it back to you." The little girl looked up at her pastor and said, "I did not give that ring to you, I gave it to Jesus."
4. Another pastor got up at the beginning of the huge stewardship rally, held his hands up for silence, and said, "Friends, I have a marvelous announcement to make about our building fund and our stewardship program for the coming year." He paused for the import of his opening remark to sink in. He then added with dramatic phrasing, "Friends, we have the money!" A buzz of excitement went through the congregation. He held up his hands for quiet once again. He finished, "Yes, we have all the money we need. Now all we have to do is give it!"
5. Funny how a \$10.00 bill looks so big when you take it to worship but so small when you take it to the supermarket. Funny how reading the church bulletin is a chore, but reading a 30 page newspaper every day is a habit you have grown to enjoy. Funny how long an hour is spent in worship, but how short it is when golfing, fishing, or attending a ball game or watching that favorite show on television. Funny how we applaud when the ball game goes overtime, but we complain if the worship hour is over the regular time. Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible, but how easy it is to read a 300-page novel. Funny how people scramble to get a front seat at the ball game, but scramble to get a back seat at services.

And finally, a short-short story:

One day at the Pittsburgh mint, a few of the dollars that had been turned back in for recycling were chatting. The fifty-dollar bill started reminiscing about all of the wonderful places it had been: “Ah, I’ve had a good life. I’ve been to casinos, five-star restaurants, professional sporting events and even a symphony! I have no regrets.” A one dollar bill answered him saying “I’ve not had all of those experiences! Mostly I’ve been to church.” The fifty dollar bill replied “Church? What is church?”

May God’s blessings continue to fill your hearts and souls, and may you give unto the Lord a portion of that which He gives you.

Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Chipt

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



Next Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate All Saints Day, but this year it is also Stewardship Sunday, the day we will each formally present the card representing our pledge for the year 2018. Hopefully, the decision for the amount of our next pledge has been influenced by what we have heard all during October. Each pledge is personal, not reflecting a sum we can afford, but a commitment made to support Grace Church and its mission, in a spirit of thanksgiving for all God’s blessings. We know the gold standard is a tithe, 10% of our annual income. But a half-tithe might be possible—or even, that 5 % after taxes. Even if each family added \$2 or \$3 more each

week it would be a significant benefit to our church home. One person told me that they looked at what they spent on cable/internet every month—it was about \$200—and decided that God deserved at least that much. May our generosity reflect that we are willing to stretch our gift this time with a heartfelt thank you for the abundance that we receive.

If you can’t be at the service on Nov. 5, please mail your card to the church very soon after.

Windsor Churches Craft Fair and Bake Sale

Saturday, November 4
9 am – 2 pm

LP Wilson Community Center
599 Matianuck Ave., Windsor

Admission: \$1/person or a non-perishable food item. All admission and bake sale proceeds will benefit the Windsor Food Bank. Continental breakfast and lunch sponsored by Windsor C.A.R.E.S. will be available in the Senior Center.

Sunday, December 17 –



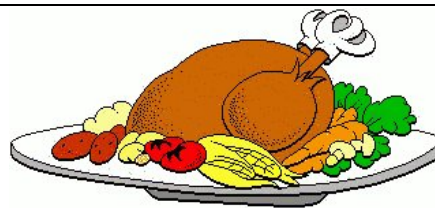
ECW Holiday Bake Sale
following the 10 AM service
in the Music Room



GRACE TALK is a small group of members who gather every Friday morning in the LPH at 10 for an hour of conversation and sharing. It is not a

book group, although we have used a book, essay or article to spur our discussion and keep it focused. We bring our ideas and life experiences relevant to the day's topic and respectfully talk to each other about things important to our faith and our spiritual growth, as individuals and as a church community.

On Friday, Nov. 3, we will be looking at a new book, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, by the His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It is not necessary to read the book before joining in the discussion. We have had some wonderful sharing and we hope you will consider joining us.



FOOD of the MONTH

For the Windsor Food Bank it is time to start thinking about Thanksgiving.

We would appreciate collecting traditional Thanksgiving items so we have them to distribute with our Turkeys.

Items would include: Cranberry sauce, gravy mixes, instant potatoes, fruit cocktail, stuffing mixes, sweet potatoes, apple sauce, corn bread mix or other baked goods would be greatly appreciated.



Grace Church Book Discussion Group

Where: Lower Parish Hall
When: November 28, 1:00 PM
Facilitator: Ellen Eldridge

Title: The Goldfinch
Author: Donna Tartt

Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.

As an adult, Theo moves silkily between the drawing rooms of the rich and the dusty labyrinth of an antiques store where he works. He is alienated and in love--and at the center of a narrowing, ever more dangerous circle.

The Goldfinch is a mesmerizing, stay-up-all-night and tell-all-your-friends triumph, an old-fashioned story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the ruthless machinations of fate.

All Are Invited!

Please join us for camaraderie and refreshments.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the GEC Book Discussion Group on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The only requirement is that you read the book.

Copies of the book can be found at the Windsor Public Library.

\$2750 was raised at our rummage sale! Thank you to all who donated and especially those who set up and cleaned up. You're amazing!



Daylight Saving Time ends November 5. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night, November 4.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
VESTRY MINUTES
OCTOBER. 10, 2017

Attendance

Present: Fr. Chip, Deacon Denise, Deb McGuigan, Connie Hegarty, Scott Sanislo, Marcia, Hinckley, Larry Young, Max Kuziak, Ken Roach, Chuck Drake, Fred McLeod, Ian Rickard, Allison Kelly, Deb Hutchinson, and JoAnne McLeod.

Absent: Jan Lawlor and Jane Cimbak.

1. **Opening Prayers**

The October 10, 2017 Vestry Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by The Reverend Harry (Chip) Elliott with an Opening Prayer.

2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

There were three additions to the agenda:

7. e. Snow removal

8. b. Letter from the Diocese Response

c. Personnel

3. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the corrected September 12, 2017 vestry minutes as written and it passed unanimously.

4. **Wardens' Report**

Senior Warden Ian Rickard noted Connie Hegarty's wonderful work organizing the Stewardship Drive.

Junior Warden Deb McGuigan commented that the Sunday School teachers and students have settled into their new locations and have benefitted by being separated by age groups.

5. **Committee Reports as Needed**

a. Building and Grounds

Fred McLeod reported that Fran has installed and strengthened a new awning over the back kitchen door.

b. Stewardship

Connie Hegarty distributed a stewardship update. She stated that she participated in a webinar entitled "Preaching on Stewardship" and she shared notes with Chip. Pledge Cards were distributed on Oct. 1st following a talk to the congregation; cards were mailed to parishioners not in attendance. Quarterly statements will be mailed in November; reminders in the Sunday bulletin and emails will remind parishioners about fulfilling their 2017 pledges. Sunday stewardship presentations will occur on Oct. 15, 22, and 29. A notice in the November Chronicle will remind all to bring their completed pledge cards to church on Nov. 5th.

In a discussion that followed, Max Kuziak suggested that the quarterly statement be mailed prior to November so that people are reminded about their pledge. Connie stated that she would try to accomplish that. The vestry thanked Connie for her hard work and good ideas.

6. **Financial Reports**

a. Letter from the Diocese

Father Chip distributed a letter from the Diocese stating that parishes that have met specific criteria will be designated as 'in good standing' and will be recognized as such at the Annual Convention. We have not met the criteria because we are in arrears in our payment to the Episcopal Church in CT for Common Mission Support and Insurance.

b. 2018 Budget

Larry Young distributed the financial reports. When referencing the Transaction Summary and Cash Balance Allocation by Fund for Sept. 2017, he stated that our finances are on track for this time of the year. The Veteran Housing Fund has caught up after the expenditures that were made to repair the Tuttle House for renting. The General Fund has a slight surplus. General rentals are also up at this point in the year. Larry stated that while finances are steady, he is concerned about the heating budget if this winter is a cold one. Larry and Father Chip also reminded the vestry to be aware that Father Chip's disability payments will be ending in 2018 and, as a result, the amount of his salary that we are responsible for will increase. This will impact the 2018 budget.

A question was asked about the allocation of the excess money in the Tuttle House Fund. No decision has been made about this but it will be put on the agenda. Another question was asked regarding the music budget. Currently there is no budget; Mark Child asks for items he would like purchased. Father Chip will speak to Mark about establishing a line item for the music program.

7. Old Business

a. Tuttle House

Father Chip distributed copies of a letter he sent to Chrysalis regarding concerns at the Tuttle House. The letter contained photographs of the house. The concerns and photographs were discussed by the vestry. A plan of action was outlined. A meeting will be scheduled with Chrysalis in the near future.

b. Grant

Marcia Hinckley reported that she inquired about the status of our grant. She stated that they are hoping to have an answer for us next month.

c. Nightmare on Broad Street

Deb McGuigan reported that Tom Woodruff has offered to help with outside signage and decorations. She also stated that candy donations are continuing.

d. Trees

Chuck Drake reported that he is in possession of two maple trees that have been donated to Grace Church. He stated that he will plant the trees as soon as possible. The vestry thanked Chuck for his time in this beautification project.

e. Snow Removal

Max Kuziak reported that he spoke with the Town Manager regarding the town removing the snow from the sidewalk in front of the Church. Max stated that the Town Manager said that the town will take care of plowing that sidewalk. The Vestry thanked Max for his persistence and persuasion in this matter.

8. New Business

a. Amplifier/Speakers

Father Chip reported that the choir is unable to hear readings and sermons during services and Mark is unable to hear the organ. The problem is with the current placement of the speakers. Father Chip stated that after consulting a sound expert, he has purchased some speakers to be placed on the beam above the choir and a used amplifier to be installed in the current amplifier location. With the new equipment, the choir and Mark will be able to hear the organ. Two monitor speakers will allow the choir to hear the readings and the sermon. Two additional monitor speakers will also be placed in the back of the church facing forward. Microphones will be placed over the choir so that they will be better heard by the congregations. The sound expert will determine what additional equipment will be necessary and will email a quote to Chip. When he receives the quote, Chip will send it to vestry members for a vote.

Deb McGuigan asked if the organ would be able to play music during a Nightmare on Broad Street. Father Chip reported that Mark said the organ does not have that function. Father Chip stated that he would bring in a tape player for the Halloween event.

b. Letter from the Diocese Response

Max Kuziak made a motion that Grace Church pay the total amount we are in arrears to the Diocese. In a discussion that followed, Ian Rickard stated that Grace has initiated more Outreach and increased the percentage of our payments to the Diocese; this hard work and dedication was not noted in the letter from the Diocese. A suggestion was made that a letter from the wardens should be sent outlining the steps the Church has taken to become a Church in good standing. Max amended his motion to state that the wardens should write a letter to the Diocese that designates what Grace has done in outreach and how much we have raised our pledge amount over the years. Deacon Denise noted that when she became Deacon 3 years ago, Grace promised to make a full pledge to the Diocese. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

c. Personnel

A motion was made to go into Executive Session and it passed unanimously.

A motion was made for the vestry to end the Executive Session and it passed unanimously.

9. Questions and/or Comments

- Fred McLeod stated that he has started building the Little Food Pantry. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of food freezing in the pantry. A suggestion was made that high school students earn a community service credit for checking on the pantry and restocking it daily. A discussion also took place regarding the placement of the pantry. It will most likely be placed on the church grounds facing the library where the Cool Kids Clothes sign had been placed.
- Chuck Drake pointed out that the outside spotlight is on during the day. Father Chip stated that the spotlights and outside lighting timers have been repaired. It was also noted that there is no banner between the poles on the church's lawn. Father Chip stated that he will contact Tom Woodruff regarding our banner.

- Father Chip stated that a Nominating Committee needs to be formed. The committee will consist of the two wardens and the three outgoing vestry members: Marcia Hinckley, Fred McLeod, and Max Kuziak. We will also need a replacement for our Junior Warden, Deb McGuigan.
- Father Chip and the vestry congratulated Deacon Denise on performing her first Baptism.
- Deacon Denise stated that we have control over what goes into the Food Pantry and that food that could freeze will not be placed in it during the winter. That donated food will go to the Food Bank. She reported that Lunch in the Park will take place for the last time this year on Nov. 25th. The coordinators of that program have asked that we collect and donate personal care items for the first week in April. Father Chip will preside over an outdoor service at that time if the rector is not available.
- Father Chip asked Ken Roach if he would check with Joanne to see if she has an inventory of the furniture and other items that were donated to the Tuttle House prior to its rental.

10. **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

With no further business before the vestry, Father Chip made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried, and Father Chip led the vestry saying the closing prayer.

JoAnne McLeod, Clerk

Attachments: Stewardship Update, Diocesan letter, Chrysalis letter, Financial summaries (2)

Dates to Remember:

- Saturday, Nov. 4 *Daylight savings time ends – turn back your clock*
Saturday night!
- Sunday, Nov. 5 Stewardship Sunday, All Saints' Reception
- Thursday, Nov. 23 Happy Thanksgiving! Office will be closed.
- Friday, Nov. 24 Office Closed
- Saturday, Nov. 25 Lunches in Bushnell Park
- Tuesday, Nov. 28 Book Discussion, 1 PM, LPH (LPH)

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 3

Seven readers are needed! Please contact Carol in the office if you would like to take part – 860-688-1232 or carol@gracewindsor.org

Lessons and Carols at the 10 AM service, followed by our festive Christmas pot luck luncheon.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Lower Parish Hall.



Christmas Eve Services

- ❖ 5 PM Christmas Pageant
- ❖ 10 PM Candlelight Eucharist



November 2017

The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything. He who has learned this knows what it means to live. He has penetrated the whole mystery of life: giving thanks for everything.

—Albert Schweitzer

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			All Saints' Day 1	2	3	WHOW Craft Fair at L.P. Wilson, 9-2 4
All Saints'/ Stewardship Sunday Reception Daylight-Saving Time Ends 5	6	Lacrosse, LPH, 7 PM 7	Great Hall in use 8	Great Hall in use 9	Windsor Club 10	Veterans Day 11
12	13	Vestry, LPH, 7 PM 14	15	16	Diocesan Convention 17	Diocesan Convention 18
AM Prayer – Deacon Denise 19	20	21	22	Thanksgiving Day 23	Office closed 24	Lunch in Bushnell Park 25
26	27	Book Discussion, LPH, 1 PM 28	29	30		

December 2017



The earth has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it always is young, the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair, and its soul full of music breaks the air, when the song of angels is sung.

—Phillips Brooks

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Lessons and Carols						
Banquet – Great Hall after Church 3	4	Lacrosse, LPH, 7 PM 5	6	Project Santa kick-off – 5 PM 7	Great Hall off limits 8	Great Hall off limits 9
Great Hall off limits 10	Great Hall off limits 11	Great Hall off limits – gift pick-up Vestry, 7 PM, SANCTUARY 12	13	14	15	16
Christmas Bake Sale 17	18	19	20	First day of winter 21	22	23
Christmas Eve 5 PM Pageant 10 PM Candlelight service 24	Christmas Day Office closed 25	Office closed 26	27	28	30	30
New Year's Eve 31		Carol will be out of the office Tuesday, Dec. 26 – Mon., Jan. 1				



Grace Episcopal Church
 311 Broad St.
 Windsor, CT 06095

Regular Weekly Calendar

10 AM The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Monday

- CT Concert Ballet, Great Hall, 4:30-6:30 PM
- AA, LPH, 8:00 PM

Tuesday

- Scottish Dancers, Great Hall, 7-9:30
- Lacrosse, First Tuesday, LPH
- Vestry, Second Tuesday, LPH, 7 PM
- Book Club, Fourth Tuesday, LPH, 1 PM

Wednesday

- CT Concert Ballet, Great Hall, 4:30-7:00 PM

Thursday

- Morning Prayer Service, Music Rm., 11 AM
- CT Concert Ballet, Great Hall, 4:30-7:00 PM
- Choir Rehearsal, Music Rm., 7:00 PM

Friday

- Grace Talk Spiritual Discussion, 10 AM, LPH
- CT Concert Ballet, Great Hall, 4:30-7:00 PM
- Windsor Club, occasional Fridays, LPH, 7:30 PM

Grace Episcopal Church

*To share and extend to others our
 experience of God's love through
 worship, education, fellowship
 and service.*

www.gracechurchonthegreen.org

Sunday Worship 10 AM
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Contact us: 860-688-1232

Office Hours

Mon.	9-2
Tues., Thurs., Fri.	9-3
Weds.	9-1

Office Staff

The Reverend Harry "Chip" Elliott, Rector
frchip@gracewindsor.org
 Carol Loughran, Parish Administrator
carol@gracewindsor.org