



Grace Notes

A newsletter about the Activities of
Mission and Ministry
at Grace Church in Elmira, New York

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June 2017

A Note from the Parish Priest

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you read this, we have entered the seventh and final week of the Easter Season, a season when our lectionary and liturgy have reflected the joy of the Resurrection. Filled with joy in these fifty days of Easter, let us offer prayers of thanksgiving, commitment, and hope to God who raised Christ from the dead and sent the Spirit to dwell among us.

On May 25, we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with an evening Procession and Solemn Mass. Although we are still in the Easter Season, the Feast of the Ascension and the following nine days have a distinct character, with themes reminding us of Advent, concentrating on the kingship of Christ and on his coming again in power and glory.

Soon we will move to participation in the celebration of Pentecost (June 4, fifty days after Easter), the third most important Holy Day in the Church calendar. The day when God sent the Holy Spirit into our midst, it is often referred to as the “Birthday of the Church.” On this feast of the Holy Spirit, we may pray “for the coming of the Spirit,” “for the fire of love,” and “for the dove of peace.” We will renew our Baptismal Vows and join in Fellowship between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 services. RED is the color representing the Holy Spirit, which is the reason we decorate the Church and wear red to celebrate this festive day.

This is the time to put into action Jesus’ words from the Gospel of John as he stood in that locked room, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” “Peace” in this sense doesn’t mean tranquility or a lack of challenge. The word Jesus would have used is “shalom,” a much more complex term. Experiencing the shalom of Christ is that moment when in an almost inexpressible way things seem to come together for us. Some might call it an “Aha!” moment, others, being in a “thin place.” The shalom of Christ comes when we experience the conviction that in Christ somehow everything makes sense, that we are ready to accept His challenge – “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

Let us pray the shalom of Christ and the “fire of love,” the Holy Spirit, moves us, the Grace Church family, to journey together throughout the Pentecost Season to heed Jesus’ call by living into the changes and challenges we see before us in this time of transition. May we all come together in confidence that we are led by Christ to work, to explore, to grow in faith and trust, having as our guide the Five Marks of Mission: To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, To teach, baptize and nurture new believers, To respond to human need by loving service, To seek to transform unjust structures of society, To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth.

We are Christ’s own, the Grace Church branch of the Jesus movement – let’s become known for bringing SHALOM and WELCOME, in His name, wherever we go. Alleluia! Alleluia!

News and Events From Around the Parish and the Diocese

New Summer Schedule

There will be one Sunday Mass over the summer. Sung Mass Rite II will begin at 9:00 a.m. The summer schedule will begin June 25, The Third Sunday after Pentecost.

Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale will be held Saturday, June 3, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Anglican Formation

Christian Education

The Adult Forum will be in recess June 4 for the Fellowship Hour. The discussion on the Book of Job will continue the next week with chapters 33-36. The Forum will be in recess for the summer beginning June 25.

Second Place East, Inc.

“Help for the Home” Shop

Grace Church is asked to provide multi-purpose cleaner for Second Place East’s Help for the Home Shop in June. If you would like to contribute some, please bring it to the church office by Monday, June 12.

Submissions Due

Submissions are due Tuesday, June 20, for the summer issue of *Grace Notes*. This will cover both July and August. If you have a church-related event to share, please bring, mail or email it to the office by this date. Thank you very much.

Mother Kit’s Office Hours

Mother Kit will be in the office Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rummage Sale Workday

A Rummage Sale Workday is held every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Help with organizing, sorting and setting prices is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Know Your Vestry!

Wardens, James Baker, Sr., Calvin Barnstead II
Class of 2017 Barbara Brownrigg, Eleanor Haber,
Elizabeth Haralson
Class of 2019 Brenda Barnstead, Marian Rutty

Centering Prayer: Elli Haber

We are told that we are beloved children of God and we are often aware that our hearts are restless as we search for a closer relationship. But we often wonder how we can actually experience this reality. The truth is that the Lord is never absent from our daily lives. Indeed, the Indwelling Spirit of Christ is always with us.

Centering prayer can help us find what has been missing by helping us to turn our attention to God in silent prayer. Sitting in silence before God at first can seem a bit daunting, especially because we are used to speaking and doing things. On top of that, our minds are often cluttered, and we find it hard to concentrate.

Practicing centering together helps us to overcome our uneasiness with silence. We discover the truth of what has been observed: that the first language of God is silence. Consider coming and trying it out for a few weeks!

This is how it goes: the Presence of God is acknowledged and welcomed; this is followed by a time of quiet, attentive peace, usually for about twenty minutes. The “lectio” time—that is to say, the prayerful reading of scripture and sharing our responses to what has been read—takes another twenty minutes. In less than an hour, we return to our daily lives, refreshed and renewed.

Centering Prayer meets every Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Guild Room. If you are thinking “maybe,” just come and see.

Links for Episcopalians

Grace Church is part of a much larger Episcopal community. Here are some links to some of that community:

[Homepage of Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira, NY](#)

[Facebook page of Grace Church](#)

[Homepage of the Diocese of Central New York](#)

[Facebook page of Diocese of Central NY](#)

[Home page of the National Episcopal Church](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Official Website of the Anglican Communion](#)

[Episcopal Relief and Development](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter \(The Messenger\)](#)

Click/tap [here](#) for the Grace Church events calendar.

Change for Grace

We need your help! Pick up a container or two from the Hall Table by the “Church Bank” to collect your loose change and dollar bills. This fundraiser is sponsored by the Vestry and will be an annual event to help offset the lower income that typically takes place over the summer months.

We will gather after the 9:00 a.m. service Sunday, June 25, to pour our filled containers into our new “Church Bank” and fill the church with change! Our goal is to reach at least \$1,000.00 on that day. If you are a debit/credit card user and do not usually use cash, we will gratefully accept a check that day to help offset our budget needs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see Brenda Barnstead (607-739-1250). Let’s see what we can do collectively for Grace Church—see you all on June 25th!

[Lectionary for June 2017](http://www.lectionarypage.net/)
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

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|---|--|--|---|
| June 4 The Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23 | June 11 Trinity Sunday Genesis 1:1-2:4a Canticle 13 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20 | June 18 The Solemnity of Corpus Christi Deut 8:2-3, Ps 116:10-17 1 Cor 10:1-4, 16-17 John 6:47-58 | June 25 The Third Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7) Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39 |
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Parish Register

We most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor

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|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-------|---------|-----------|
| June | Norman | Christopher | Parnilla | Becky | Richard | Shirley |
| Arlie | Elizabeth | Richard | Fred | Brent | Betty | Christine |
| Lee | Linda | Don | George | Susan | Paula | Marj |
| David | Colleen | Daniel | Ann | Barry | Peter | Betsy |
| Community of Mount Saviour | | The Pelchar family | | | | |

and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.

Happy Birthday!

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|----|------------------|----|------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Betsy Sentigar | 14 | Brandon Seager | 24 | Ryan Sanford |
| 6 | Barb Geer | 15 | Anne Welliver-Hartsing | 25 | Mary Jane Belinky |
| 8 | Samantha Pelchar | 16 | Stefani Bjorck | | Michael Bjorck |
| | Gavin Reynolds | 18 | Calvin Barnstead II | 27 | Maddy Kankus |
| 10 | Dick Kankus | 19 | Abigail Valicenti | 30 | Sara Rose Lowman |
| 11 | Martha Iszard | 24 | Beth Balok | | |

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Attendance Statistics

April 2017

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday Attendance: 272 | Average Sunday Attendance: 54 |
| Weekday Attendance: 126 | |
| at Grace: 97 | at Woodbrook: 8 |
| at Taizé: 15 | at Tenebrae: 10 |

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.