

Sunday, October 20th

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



“God will give me experiences that I need. I may want other experiences, but God’s love guarantees I’ll get what I need.”

Karen Casey

8:00 AM	
CHALICE	JANET CUSACK
2ND CHALICE	
ACOLYTE	ALLISON McLEAN
O.T. LECTOR	JANET CUSACK
N.T. LECTOR	BEVERLY BAILEY
INTERCESSOR	LISA DENISCO
USHER	LISA DENISCO
USHER	GAIL LICHWICK
10:30 AM	
SUBDEACON	DAVID BROKAW
M.C.	CLAIRE NEWQUIST
THURIFER	TORRY GUARDINO
CRUCIFER	PHYLLIS GUARDINO
ACOLYTE 1	MARLENE PRESLEY
ACOLYTE 2	RHONDA SARRAZIN
O.T. LECTOR	LOURDES CRUZ
N.T. LECTOR	MICHAEL SAUNDERS
INTERCESSOR	JOSEPH BARRETT
USHER	JOSEPH BARRETT
USHER	EILEEN BARRETT



Revised
Common
Lectionary

Episcopal Edition

NEW WEBSITE FOR LECTIONARY READINGS

THE WEBPAGE IS IN CALENDAR FORM—JUST CLICK ON THE DATE AND YOU WILL SEE THE READINGS FOR THAT DAY.

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/CalndrsIndexes/Calendar2019.html>

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 20	8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite II
Wednesday, October 23	10:00 AM: Healing Mass
Sunday, October 27	Stewardship Sunday 8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist Rite II
Wednesday, October 30	10:00 AM: Healing Mass



**Grace
Church
Calen-
dar**

Stewardship Sunday is October 27th

Our Stewardship campaign this year will be a rather low-key affair, but that in no way diminishes the importance of the campaign itself. Stewardship is, in the end, a very personal decision as it is an inherent aspect of our faith and comes by focused and deliberate prayer. This year, the focus is on you to make this very important decision for you and for your church. This Sunday we will be making available our commitment card packet. Don't worry, if you are not in church, we will mail them to you in the following week. If you do not receive the packet by the end of the week, please let the office know so you can be sure that they have your address listed correctly. Rick

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11-01-2005

**THE OL' GOOD SHEPHERD, BAD SHEPHERD
ROUTINE**

Current Year Pledge Statements

Pledge statements for the current year are in envelopes in the back of the church for all parishioners who made a pledge in 2019. These statements are to provide you with information regarding the progress of your pledge, and are not intended to be used as official tax documents. Thank you!

ShopRite Grocery Gift Certificates are available for sale EVERY Sunday after each service. Grace Church receives 5% on the sale of the cards from ShopRite, while you purchase the cards at face value! Shoprite gift cards can make shopping for the family easy. Our ongoing fundraiser of Shoprite gift cards helps you prepare your meals while helping Grace Church. Please keep us in mind when preparing your shopping lists!



We are happy and pleased to announce that we can accept credit card purchases for the ShopRite gift cards. So, if you use a rewards credit card you can now accumulate points while supporting

Grace Church!

A Prepared Mind

On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Fr. Victor, Claire and myself attended a conference at Pace University. Safety & Security for Faith-Based Institutions was presented by the NY State Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Sadly, its core topic was a discussion of how to prepare for and possibly prevent violent attacks against houses of worship. After all, a prepared mind responds better during stressful events.

As I began writing this article, I had the thought in mind of presenting many of the ideas discussed and presented at the conference regarding preparedness. As you can imagine, the majority of the presenters were First Responders, but with one exception. I decided to write about this exception in my first of potentially several articles on protection and preparedness. There will be time enough to talk about “Run, Hide, Fight”, CCTV cameras or recognizing suspicious behavior.

The Reverend Anthony Thompson is the Vicar of Holy Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC.

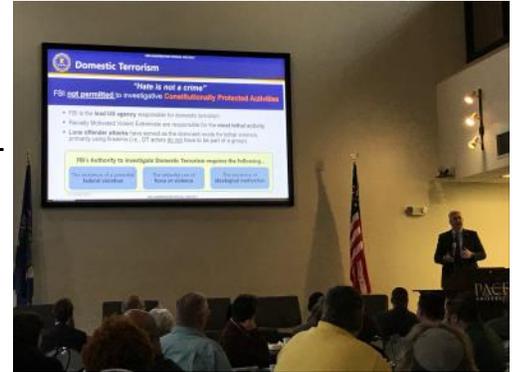


His wife, Myra, was a member of the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. She was murdered that day in 2015, murdered by an individual who was welcomed into the Church for bible study. He prayed with the congregants before killing them. Myra was one of the people killed. Murdered for the color of her skin.

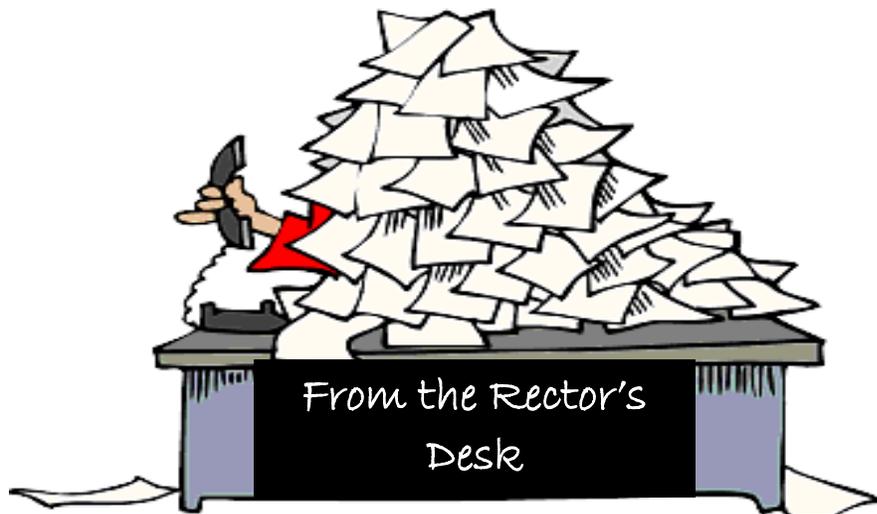
This speaker at the conference was not there to speak of preparation or safety & security or anger. Rather, he was there to speak of hope and forgiveness. A couple of days after the attack at Emanuel AME, he attended the bond hearing for the murderer. Follow-

ing the hearing, he addressed the killer with the words “Son, I forgive you. My family forgives you.” He told of how after those words of forgiveness, he experienced God’s peace. In contrast, in a journal entry written about six weeks after the massacre, the killer wrote “I would like to make it crystal clear, I do not regret what I did, I am not sorry. I have not shed a tear for the innocent people I killed.”

Reverend Thompson told us that “through forgiveness you experience healing.” While the murderer wrote words of hate following his crime of hate, Reverend Thompson spoke of the healing taking place, in both himself and in Charleston. He was a powerful speaker with a powerful message. He told us that after the crime, there was no rioting, rather, “Charleston erupted in grace.” A much more powerful message than hate from a man who, by his actions and words, teaches us of love. And we should pay attention to his message because, after all, a prepared mind responds better. ~Joe Barrett



As stewardship (commitment) Sunday approaches yet again, my thoughts and prayers revolve around practicing generosity in the light of God's generosity to me. In many ways it is an act of gratitude in which I give back to God, and the service of God's people, because God has first given to me. In the book Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis reflects: Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.



The service of God that Lewis is talking about is very straightforward. The reason churches exist is simply to share with the world the good news (love) of Jesus Christ. And we do this essentially in two ways. One, we establish ourselves in the community as a witness to our faith, extending the open opportunity for folks seeking spiritual grounding and nourishment to walk in the door and take part in the experience. Two, we live an example of compassionate love of neighbor through ministries that reach out to those who suffer. Here at Grace we have inherited a beautiful church and a beautiful tradition of Eucharistic worship (and ministries of every description) which are always open and available to everyone. We have also inherited the Guild of St. Margaret, providing food for the hungry every day of the year. Carrying this tradition forward is our simple and yet deeply profound and loving responsibility.

This, of course, can be an expensive and time-consuming proposition. By the grace of God, it is a labor of love for each one of us. The people of faith who went before us have also left us with an endowment to help cover the financial cost. Of course, this cannot cover the entire financial cost, nor will it replace the gift of our time and the talents with which we are individually blessed. These things are ours to generously give.

To put a fine point on the conversation, the endowment provides for approximately 48% of the cost of running Grace Church and its programs. The other 52% is up to us. The Guild of St. Margaret is funded separately, through grants and other fundraising efforts.

The biblical ideal of expressing gratitude through giving back to God is the practice of tithing. It may sound funny to talk about financial donations as a spiritual practice, but it truly is. It is a concrete way of expressing gratitude to God, who made us who we are (individually and as community) and who gave us the good things we enjoy. Like Sacraments, Prayer, Bible Study and Volunteering, generosity transforms us from the inside out.

I will admit, there have been times in my adult life when finances were so tight that I could hardly donate anything at all to my church, or any other worthy cause. And I fully understand that not everybody in our congregation can engage in the biblical tithe.

However, today I can and will be donating 10% of each paycheck back to our parish. And if you can do the same, I encourage you to do so. Personally, it has been an experience of liberation and empowerment. Knowing that as I live in this world, I have placed a personal stake in concretely living my faith by using my time, my talent and my treasure to share the love of God in a pained world.

OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station

A safe, overnight space for homeless men and women.

Beginning Sunday evening November 17, 2019 and continuing each night (9 P.M. to 7 A.M.) during the cold months the Warming Station in Middletown will host and extend its hours for community needs to provide a warm and safe environment for homeless adults (up to 30) living on the streets in Middletown through April 2, 2020.

Men and Women are encouraged to volunteer overnight to supervise Middletown homeless men and women who have been screened for suitability.

Are you called to this service?

Join us at one of the following orientation/training sessions on

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Each session begins at 7:00 P.M.

This training will take place at:

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

58 West Main Street

**Middletown, NY 10940 (Use Mulberry St.
entrance)**

To volunteer to serve at The Warming Station or if you have questions, contact Marilyn (845-346-6110) or midduce@hvc.rr.com, or Dave (845-741-4799) or dbbechtle@aol.com

If you've already been trained, go to our website and click on VOLUNTEER to sign up.

<https://www.middletownwarmingstation.com>

Tuesday, October 29

Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen

Get your
flu shot



Walgreens pharmacists will administer **flu shots** at this location:

Tuesday 10/29/2019

10:30am

Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen

FREE with most insurances

Please bring your insurance card + Ages 7years and older welcome!

*****vouchers available for the uninsured*****

Vaccines subject to availability. State-, age- and health-related restrictions may apply.

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Coffee Hour Fellowship

Thinking about signing up for Coffee Hour? Go online to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4da5a722a4f58-coffee> and click on the picture to sign up for an upcoming Coffee Hour. You may sign up from home or, if you don't have access to the Internet, Call Chris at 342-3561, or Patty at 386-5622 and we'll find you a Coffee Hour that's available.

Remember, we have some coffee hours in which we get by with cookies. When you see something yummy on sale, call one of us to see what Sunday is available. Or, find a fellow parishioner and do a Coffee Hour together.

Donations of funds or supplies are always accepted gladly, and if you don't feel up to the task of hosting a coffee hour, you may make a monetary donation and we will happily shop for you.

Vestry News

The next Vestry meeting will be held in the Parish House Boardroom on October November 21st starting at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend!

To read the highlights of the June 20, 2019 Vestry meeting, click here.

To read the highlights of the May 16, 2019 Vestry meeting, click here.

GoodShop
You Shop, We Give!

Please remember to take a look at the Goodshop Program (www.goodshop.com). You just might like it!



Try out our audio mixer to listen to the 10:30 Sunday Mass live. No matter where you are you can join us in worship. Just click here!

Contact Your Vestry

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