

DIRECTORY

<p style="text-align: center;">GRACE CHURCH <i>Franklin Ave, PO Box 366 Millbrook, NY 12545 Phone 845-677-3064 Fax 845-677-3134 Office Hours: Mon.-Fri 9-4</i> www.gracemillbrook.org office@gracemillbrook.org Grace Notes Articles jwsweeny@optonline.net</p>	<p>CLERGY AND STAFF The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins, Rector calkins@gracemillbrook.org John Lacey, Lisa Lacey, and Betty Rae Nittiskie, Sunday School Coordinators Evelyn Garzetta, Director, Grace Latino Outreach (GLO) Abby Nathanson, Director Engaging people in Change (EPIC) Cindy Schmoke, Secretary Dr. Peter Muir, Organist and Director of Music David Swift, Facilities Manager</p>
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	<p>ALTAR GUILD Jean Hayes, Directress Susan Quigley, Flower Chairperson Betty Rae Nittiskie, Secretary</p>

Grace Notes



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G r a c e C h u r c h , M i l l b r o o k , N Y

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

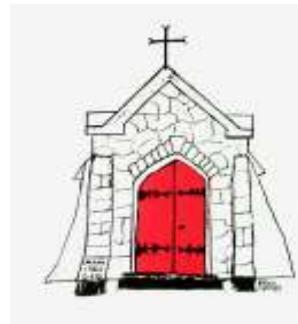
THE REV. DR. MATTHEW CALKINS

Steward of Grace

A steward is one who is given something to care for (steward) but not to own. That's life for you. In the end, there is nothing we own, not even our own lives. God has given you the gift of life—and called you to use it wisely. You will leave possessions and even your body behind; your heirs will receive what you pass on, and in turn will pass on to another generation the works and world they have made with the gift of their lives. As the late great Kurt Vonnegut put it (in *Slaughterhouse Five*): So it goes.

As I write, the late afternoon sun streams through a window, lighting the colors of fall in the leaves of the trees. It is beauty; it is grace; it is gift. Thank you, God, for the gift of life.

That is how I generally begin my prayers when I gather with someone who is ill or dying. Thank you, God, for the gift of life. For all the days given to this your servant. For the beauty and the joy, the pain and sorrow, for parents,



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siblings, children, friends, for all those who have touched this life and been touched by it. Thank you, God, for the gift of life.

It is good always, I suppose, to begin with thanksgiving. Such a practice puts the heart in place. With a grateful heart, we can begin to see clearly as we think and pray about matters at hand. A grateful heart is the right place to start.

Certainly this is true when we begin to think and plan about giving to the church—and, of course, you knew a stewardship message was coming with a title like “Steward of Grace.” Begin with a grateful heart. Count your blessings before you count your bills and measure them against your bank account. Think about what is important in life and in your community. Think about what God has given you, and how the church is a tangible manifestation of God’s dream of creating the beloved community, of creating a peaceable kingdom, a world of forgiveness and peace, flourishing and joy. How the church is called to strive for justice and to feed the hungry, to worship God, and God alone, to teach the children and lift every voice and sing.

At least that’s what we are called to do—and what I believe we try to do and do as best we can— here at Grace. Such a wonderfully named church, Grace—and a wonderful group of people, both those active now and those who have come before and built and given and passed on this treasure to us. And, God willing, we in turn will build and work and pass on this gift.

This is your time and your church. This is your life, your resources, your decisions. You don’t own them, but you do have a say in how they are used and what will become of them. As you think and pray, please begin with a grateful heart.

See you on Sunday, Matt+



EPIC

EPIC teaches a Spanish class on Wednesdays at 5:30pm at the Wassaic Project. We’re halfway through our fall semester. The following reflection was written by EPIC member Wilfido, translated from Spanish:

"I have enjoyed the first weeks of the Spanish class. It is a way to share one of the languages that I officially speak. One of the very fun ways to learn Spanish is to act out skits in front of the students in Spanish. And after the skits we ask them questions. What did they understand during the skit, and we correct them if they don’t remember or did not understand. I hope that our students learn the basics of Spanish and that I continue learning English at the same time. And I hope that we do well together during this year."

It’s a good time! To connect with EPIC, please call Abby at **845.420.4280** or email abby@epicjustice.org.

Grateful Hearts

I have been coming to Grace Church for a little over 7 years now. My dear friend, Sharon Schumacher, invited me to attend a bible study of sorts conducted by Father Doug and so... I was introduced to Grace Church. I was raised in the Dutch Reformed Church in Castleton, NY, with a large extended family, the Van Orts (thus the “Dutch” influence), many of whom lived on the same street. It was a great way to grow up. I moved to Poughkeepsie in 1981, attended several different churches in Dutchess County. I have always had a strong faith in Jesus Christ, in his Grace. My faith has brought me through some very tough personal times in my life and strengthened me. It has taught me to be incredibly grateful during the good times. Many churches, while fulfilling “some” of the very core of my Christian beliefs, left me wanting and knowing there was more.

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When I began attending the studies with Father Doug, began listening to his sermons, began researching the practices of the Episcopal Church - with the help of Dick Schumacher - and participating in them, there was a moment I remember feeling... "this is where I belong and these are the teachings and practices of Christ – Equality, Compassion, Forgiveness, Tolerance, Inclusion, Our Planet" and on the list goes. Every clergy that has preached from the pulpit here at Grace has inspired me and comforted me, from the interim pastors to our Father Matt.

With all the chaos that surrounds us today, the uncertainty, the frightening politics, the bigotry, the hatred, the misogyny and the natural disasters, I know that at least one hour of my week, I can walk into a place and feel my entire being calming... breathing in and out... feeling God's love, his grace, his hope and feel it surrounded by people who feel the same. I am so very grateful for this church. I am so very thankful that in this crazy world we are reminded that there are good, caring, kind people who want what I want and believe what I believe.

And so, with Grateful Hearts, we come to Consecration Sunday. The uncomfortableness sets in – tithing. We shift in our chairs and in the pews and we feel a little uncomfortable. Is it simply just about the money? – What does "consecration" mean? I wasn't sure so I googled Consecration - Consecration is the solemn dedication to a special purpose or service, usually religious. The word *consecration* literally means "association with the sacred". Persons, places, or things can be consecrated, and the term is used in various ways by different groups. I think we can all agree that the people that attend this church are dedicated to a special purpose, many of the purposes I mentioned above, equality, compassion, giving, world peace, caring for our planet, volunteerism – to that I have no doubt. We all give of our time, that which we have to give. The hard truth though is that we need money to keep up with the business of the church, the valued programs of the church, our clergy, our building... the expenses. We want to invest in our Church. Quite honestly, I believe if we all won the Lotto, we would be more than happy to place a large donation to what we all

believe is an incredibly worthwhile and fulfilling place – our Grace Church. However, we all have to be practical - we probably won't win the jackpot.

The bible points to tithing one-tenth of our income. Abraham tithes in Genesis 14:19-20; in Leviticus 27:30-34 tithing will be established as biblical law. And while ten percent might seem like a lot, tithing is actually the lowest biblical standard of giving. John the Baptist will encourage giving away half of everything we have (Luke 3:11) and Jesus will call for giving away everything (Matthew 19:21). Now we all know that is absolutely impossible and surely no one has this scenario in mind when it comes to tithing.

So, what do we do? We do what we should always do... the best we can. That is how I believe we should live our lives, simply doing the best we can do. I also believe that is how we should tithe. You should give what you can give and that really quite simply, is it. If you can give more, you will. If you cannot, then you cannot and that is that.

So, in the spirit of Consecration, please join us with a welcoming grateful heart for Grace Church on Sunday, November 19th, for a 10:30 service. Place your pledges in the collection plate at the service and be assured that you and everyone are doing the best they can. Think of also donating whatever time and energy you can throughout the year.

After the service join this wonderful group of congregants for a Potluck Luncheon. Bring your favorite dish (let's stay away from the turkey and pumpkin pie because that's right around the corner) – a main dish, a side dish, a salad or dessert.

Let's celebrate something truly wonderful, something we are all truly grateful for, something that still gives us Hope – Grace Episcopal Church and our love for Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A Report on our Parish Retreat

We have a great spirit-refreshing resource here in the mid-Hudson Valley thanks to the Benedictine monks of the Anglican order of the Holy Cross. They live, worship and open their doors to all kinds of guests at their monastery in West Park, where they “welcome all who come as if Christ himself.”

Seven members of Grace and Fr Matt spent a wonderful weekend at Holy Cross on the second weekend of October. The monastery is set on nine acres of woods and pasture above the Hudson River in West Park. The accommodations are simple but comfortable; the food is great; and the monastic round of worship delightful to observe and take part in.

Brother Roy led several sessions of centering prayer—a practice of sitting still and straight for about twenty minutes at a time while trying to attend simply to the presence of God in one’s “heart.” Thoughts come and go—we are to notice but not cling. Attend to breath and bring attention back when wandering through the repetition of a word or phrase like “love” or “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.”

Simple, right? But not easy. As those who practice various forms of meditation know, it takes time to settle in, learn not to fidget, and then regular practice to realize the benefit of a calm mind and settled spirit. The added attraction of centering prayer is the companionship of Jesus and the Holy Spirit which we feel and trust through faith. The practice is one way to grow in spiritual maturity and get closer to God, ground of all being, lover of souls.

And a weekend retreat is a wonderful way to break from everyday routines, take time for a walk along the river, laugh with friends, sing a hymn and reflect together. Brother Roy is a gifted teacher who has in his long life met with and learned from many of the folks who re-introduced contemplative prayer to the West, from Thomas Merton on. We were blessed to have this time and teacher. We plan on making this an annual event—come along next time!

Consecration Sunday is Coming!

This year we will conclude our stewardship campaign with a **celebratory Eucharist and potluck lunch on November 19th at 10:30.**

This year's stewardship theme is "Giving with a Grateful Heart." Pledge forms are available throughout the campaign but we encourage everyone to bring them in on November 19. We will place them all in the offering plate as we prepare for Communion. After the service we will have potluck lunch in the Parish Hall—please bring a dish and coordinate through Jean Hayes or Cindy in the office.

Whether you have been a longtime member or a relative newcomer, whether you have filled a pledge card many times—or still considering whether to commit to becoming a supporting member—please come to the service and lunch. Our hope is to increase participation not just raise money (though we need to do that!). So, do come—it won't be the same without you!



Our 10 am worship service on November 5th will be dedicated to all the saints who have gone before us. Bring a photo of a person or persons whom you love, but see no longer, to display at the rear of the sanctuary. During the service we will be reading the names of all the Grace Church parishioners who have died.

Calendar and Prayer Cycle

November 2017



Sunday Service Schedule:

8:00 Holy Eucharist
 8:45 - 9:00 Rector's Forum
 10:00 Family Service & Holy Eucharist
 - Sunday School 11 am - 11:35 am

Weekday Services:

Healing Service: Wednesdays at 10 am
 Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:45 am
 Caregivers Support : Thursdays at 1 pm
 ESL: Thursdays in Parish Hall / Fridays in
 Choir Room: 6 – 9 pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			<i>D. Glass</i>	6 pm ESL <i>Gomez</i>	3-5 pm Food Pantry 6 pm ESL <i>Graham</i>	<i>Gunther</i>
10 am - All Saints Service ⁵ <i>Guyen</i>	6 <i>Mr. & Mrs. J. Hall</i>	7 <i>P. Hall</i>	8 <i>Hallberg</i>	9 6 pm ESL <i>Hammond</i>	10 3-5 pm Food Pantry 6 pm ESL <i>Hayes</i>	11 <i>Hogan</i>
12 11:30 am - Welcome New Parishioners Brunch <i>Jagar</i>	13 <i>Kasin</i>	14 <i>Kiewra</i>	15 <i>King</i>	16 6 pm ESL <i>R. Kinsey</i>	17 3-5 pm Food Pantry 6 pm ESL <i>Kolessar</i>	18 <i>Kolts</i>
19 10:30 am - Consecration Sunday <i>Kramer</i>	20 6 pm - GLO Thanksgiving Celebration <i>Kryzak</i>	21 <i>Kuras</i>	22 6:30 pm Women of Grace <i>Lacey</i>	23 6 pm ESL <i>LaManna</i>	24 3-5 pm Food Pantry 6 pm ESL <i>Larobardier</i>	25 <i>Laursen</i>
26 11:30 am - 3 Lunch Box <i>Lawson-Boice</i>	27 <i>Lechleitner</i>	28 <i>Leiber</i>	29 <i>Leung</i>	30 <i>Lewin</i>		



**Grace Latino Outreach (GLO)
Cordially Invites You and Your Family To
Our Annual
Thanksgiving Celebration**

**Monday, November 20st, 2016
6:00PM (Promptly)
Grace Episcopal Church Millbrook
3328 Franklin Avenue
Millbrook, NY 12545
Parish Hall**

It is free, space is limited

**Must RSVP by November 17, 2016
Call or text: 917-705-9600 or E-Mail:
evelynelizabethgarzetta@gmail.com
Evelyn Garzetta**

**Gracia Latino de Extensión (GLO)
Invita cordialmente a usted y su familia
Nuestra Cuarta Anual Celebración
de Acción de Gracias**

**Lunes, 20 de noviembre 2016
6:00 PM (puntualmente) en
Iglesia Episcopal Grace Millbrook
3328 Franklin Avenue
Millbrook, Nueva York 12545
Salón parroquial**

**Para confirmar su asistencia antes del 17 de noviembre, 2016
Por favor responda a cuántas personas de su familia asistirán.
Es gratis pero, tenemos espacio limitado.
Llame o mande un texto: 917-705-9600
E-Mail: evelynelizabethgarzetta@gmail.com
Evelyn Garzetta**

Welcome New Parishioners on November 12th

Father Matt and the Vestry cordially invite you and your family to Grace Church Rectory for a brunch at 11:30 a.m. as we celebrate those who joined Grace this year. Please RSVP by 11/6/17 at 845-677-3064 or email office@gracemillbrook.org.

Simplify Your Giving

Life is complicated. We all get pulled in many directions, and even for faithful stewards of Grace Church, it's sometimes hard to keep track of your weekly / monthly contributions ("Did I remember to make up for the Sundays we missed due to vacation?"). E-PLEDGING not only simplifies your life, but also makes things easier for Grace Church. When a parishioner uses E-PLEDGE, we know exactly how much money will be available at any given time. It's easy for you to setup, and easy to change. As we embark on Stewardship season, it's something you may want to consider.

What is E-PLEDGING? Many people have a bank take a regular payment directly from their checking account. E-PLEDGING as a similar service you can use to make regular contributions to Grace Church.

How does it work? It's very simple. On the date(s) you authorize we initiate a debit to your checking account and at the same time a credit to your congregation's account.

How will I know what is taken from my account? You will see the charge on your bank statement. The date(s) of the charge will be those you have authorized. The amount of the charge will be the amount you have authorized us to debit.

How do I sign up? You complete an Individual Authorization Agreement and attach a voided check from your checking account. When the Controller's at the Diocese office receives it, we confirm to you in writing (by mail, fax, or e-mail) the day (s) of the month you want to make your contribution and the amount you want to give each time. We also confirm to you the date you wish your electronic contribution to begin.

For additional information, or to find e-pledge forms, check <https://www.dioceseny.org/administration/congregations/parish-finance-administration/epledging/> or call the office.

St. Nicholas Bazaar

at Grace Church Millbrook

Saturday, December 9, 2017
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*fine handmade crafts
& holiday cookies*



*Cookies sold by the pound
&
fine artisans
offering handmade crafts, locally
produced yarn, silk scarves,
paintings, specialty foods,
Christmas tree ornaments and
skirts, unique bird houses, hand
painted glasses, jewelry, pottery
and more.*

Vendors please contact somerscapers@aol.com or 845-416-5321

3328 Franklin Ave., Millbrook, NY, 845 677-3064
www.gracemillbrook.org

Sunday School News

“Children are not the church’s future, they are its present.” Father Matt

We are continuing to learn stories from the bible, using the curriculum “The Path Family Storybook: A Journey Through the Bible for Families”. So far, we have learned about the Creation, Noah and the Ark, Joseph who had many special dreams about God and the word, Moses and the burning Bush and the Ten Commandments. For each lesson we have had an arts and crafts activity which reflected some part of the story. Many thanks from the younger children, to Isabel Diciara, for her help with the “Snow globe”.

What a great job Belinda and Sarah did as ushers on the first family Sunday in October. (Thank you, Barbara Rudy, for your help on this Sunday!) Be on the look out for more participation by the children in the Family Service. And thank you to Madeline Lacey for leading my class when I was away.

Miss Heather has been preparing the children to sing, “When the Saints Go Marching In” on the first Sunday in November. Be prepared for a lively rendition!

Looking forward to another great year!

Betty Rae Nittiskie

Food of Life Pantry

Please consider donating to the Food of Life Turkey fund for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. Checks can be made out to "Food of Life Food Pantry" Mail to:

St. Thomas Church
40 Leedsville Rd.
Amenia Union, NY 12501



Thank you for considering helping the Food of Life Pantry!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

A NOTE FROM THE ALTAR GUILD: *Although our wish is to accommodate everyone’s memorial, Christmas bulletins are finalized and printed well in advance of the holiday. To make sure your memorial is printed in the Christmas bulletins, **the Parish Office needs to receive it no later than December 15th**.*

We welcome donations in any amount for the many colorful poinsettias and wreaths in memory of your loved one or as a thanksgiving.

Please include payment with this form & make your check payable to:

“Grace Church - Christmas Flowers”

Please print clearly

Given by: _____

In loving memory of: _____

and/or

In thanksgiving for: _____

Check/cash enclosed for: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



November 2017 Service Schedule (Revised)

If you are unable to serve, you are responsible for finding your own replacement. Schedule changes after the 15th will not be in Grace Notes. For any questions regarding the schedule, please call the Lay Server Schedulers, Joan McGilvray at 635-3021 (email bmcgilvray4@gmail.com) for the 8:00 service or Evelyn Garzetta at 518-789-0793 (email evelynelizabethgarzetta@gmail.com) for the 10:00 service. Thank You!

	<u>November 5</u>	<u>November 12</u>	<u>November 19</u>	<u>November 26</u>
<u>8:00 am Service</u>				
Usher	Kyle Van De Water	Maurice Neville	Jean Hayes	Bruce McGilvray
Reader	Elliot Lindsley	Valerie La Robardier	Joan McGilvray	Kathryn Calame
Chalice	Beth Willis	Brenda deMartine	Valerie La Robardier	Joan McGilvray
Coffee Hour	Jean Hayes and Hollie Sturges	Cathy Shanks	The Calames	Brenda deMartine
<hr/>				
<u>10:00 am Service</u>				
Usher 1	The Rudy Family	The Ball Family	Susan Quigley, Lori Whiteley	The Garzetta Family
Usher 2	Sarah Leiber, Magdalena Lucal			
Reader	Paula Wilson	Lori Whiteley	Dawn Galente	Lynda Boissey
Acolyte	Harry Leiber	Steve Bryant	Sally Ball	Emily Grasseler
Chalice 1	Lisa Lacey	Jane Meigs	ML Ball	Ida Leung
Chalice 2	John Lacey	Lynda Boissey	Barbara Rudy	John Lacey
Server 1				
Server 2				
Coffee Hour	The Thompson Family	The Mustello Family	Grace Latino Outreach	The Rudy Family
<hr/>				
<u>Readings</u>				
First Reading	Joshua 3:7-17	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalms	Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37	Psalms 78:1-7	Psalms 123	Psalms 100
Epistle	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 23:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46



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	<u>December 3</u>	<u>December 10</u>	<u>December 17</u>	<u>December 24</u>	<u>December 31</u>
<u>8:00 am Service</u>					
Usher	Betty Rae Nittiskie	Bruce McGilvray	Kyle Van De Water	Maurice Neville	Jean Hayes
Reader	Elliot Lindsley	Valerie La Robardier	Beth Willis	Kathryn Calame	Elliot Lindsley
Chalice	Beth Willis	Joan McGilvray	Valerie La Robardier	Brenda de Martine	Beth Willis
Coffee Hour	Betty Rae Nittiskie	Karen Whitton	Brenda de Martine	Cathy Shanks	The Calames
<u>10:00 am Service</u>	<i>To be determined</i>				
Usher 1					
Usher 2					
Reader					
Acolyte					
Chalice 1					
Chalice 2					
Server 1					
Server 2					
Coffee Hour					
<u>Readings</u>					
First Reading	Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalms	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalms 126	Canticle 3	Psalms 147
Epistle	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Gospel	Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:26-38	John 1:1-18