



The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains

A Summer Prayer



Grace Church, we are now in summer and I am so glad to move forward with new possibilities, hopefully beyond a COVID world and into warm summer breezes, swimming pools and BBQ. Please read below the wonderful Summer Prayer Offering from the Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, a priest with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her offering so wonderfully captures God's gift of summer to be enjoyed by all of us.

God of the hummingbirds and butterflies, garden veggies and shade trees, be with me this summer. Open my eyes to the beauty in my front yard – a bird bathing the shades of green leaves the vibrant flowers. Open my eyes to my neighbors – the cadence of friends talking children chasing one another through the grass hands waving hello. Keep my feet firmly planted – reveling in the earth supporting me reverent of my place in the vast universe cautious of my footprint on creation. Open my hands – to strawberry filled fingers reaching for a hug one more push on the swing another walk around the park.

Open my ears – to the cries of injustice the invitation to serve the voice of God nudging my heart to serve my neighbors. Keep my spirit set on seeking you – choosing joy over sadness intent on singing a song of peace. God of the gentle wind and rushing storms, trickling creeks, and towering mountains, quiet my soul. Help me to dig deeper into your Word your grace your love. With every sunrise and sunset may my body be a prayer my life given in love for the sake of my neighbor for the sake of the world in Jesus' name. Amen, Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

Mother's Day Celebration in La Gracia Rev. Adolfo Moronta

As a way to honor and recognize all the mothers that come to our services, and also to celebrate the mothers who are already in the presence of the Lord, La Gracia had its annual Mother's day celebration on Sunday, May 9th. For the occasion we had 140 parishioners present in a service that included special music played by Juan Carlos and two additional guest musicians; gifts were given to all the mothers and we raffled additional gifts to bring excitement to the celebration. Furthermore, a special prayer was done asking the Lord to continue blessing and uplifting that very special person we call mother. The service was transmitted live on Facebook and was seen by over 300.

My warmest wishes to all the women who are Mothers. As co-creators with God and Mother Earth, today Mom we honor you. We publicly declare our gratitude to you and we give special thanks to you and to God for giving us "YOU." Happy Mother's Day!





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

It has been a busy Winter/Spring for our Youth Education program. Under Linda Gallo's leadership the program has adjusted to the Covid limitations while continuing with a full slate of activities and events.


The intermediate class expanded by 2 this past winter (with the addition of Joel and Emmi – who join Savannah, Aadi, Sebastian, Maria and Myrna). We've met virtually following the curriculum created by the Virginia Theological Seminary. The class has done a good job of staying current through the seasons of Lent and Easter. The students – as always – have focused on their public reading skills in preparation for greater participation in the church services. We are hoping to have a final bread baking session before the end of the school year. Stay tuned!

Michael Heffner and Cynthia Sangurima-Brown

Rite 13 continued its Spring education and activities traditions. No doubt the highlight for Rite 13 was our annual Celebration of Adulthood, which this year took place on March 21st in the Sanctuary. During this joyful ceremony, officiated by Father Chip, we honored Eve Bradford, Rohan Kumar and Ivanna Richards as our Celebrities this year, joined by their proud parents and extended families. Aaron Woodberry, our current seventh grader in Rite 13, cheered his former Rite 13 mates on during the ceremony and looks forward to being a Celebrity next year. Although the Covid situation prevented our annual trip to the Dollar Store to purchase items for the Easter Basket we have auctioned each year in the past as a fundraiser for the Church, we did hold our regular classes through zoom. This term we covered how the Image of God impacts our lives as Christians, and how decision making is an essential part of our lives. All of the Rite 13 members are signed up as readers and acolytes for the coming months. We very much appreciate their service, and we look forward to the return of normal in-person attendance in the fall.

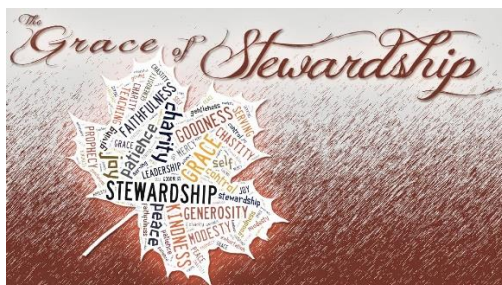
Our J2A class, comprised of our high schoolers, continued its active learning as well. Lauren Reid has maintained her dedicated service of many years in continuing to lead this class. The class met initially over zoom, but more recently has transitioned to outdoor meetings. In whatever setting, J2A has continued its important Christian messaging and discussions among our high school youth.

In addition to these activities our Youth were busy with two additional projects. First, they have helped to set up the Grace Church Caring Cupboard, which is a self-service food pantry located in the vestibule at Grace Church. Many take advantage of this important capability. Our Youth spent



many hours decorating and taking care of the Cupboard. In addition, our Youth helped to arrange the carnations given to all of our mothers who attended the Mothers' Day service at Grace Church. The carnations were very well received indeed! Finally, our Youth continue as lay readers, ushers and acolytes, which participation will now become more frequent as we look to the continued reopening of our Church.

George O'Hanlon



STEWARDSHIP IN THE SUMMER 2021

Last summer when I wrote an article on stewardship for the Angelus, I had no idea that the Coronavirus would affect us up until and after the summer of 2021. During this year we have experienced pain, loss and anxiety. But God has always been there looking out for his flock. When we give of our time, talent and money, we are helping him look after for his flock.

Giving of time has included the making of calls to check on the welfare of our parishioners, collecting and delivering food to those in need (Food Alliance, Shopping Sisters, Food Cupboard), visiting parishioners (pastoral care), distributing information about Covid-19 and the vaccine, using social media to expand the audience for our sermons, and participating on the Vestry and various church committees.

Giving of talent has included all that has been done during this pandemic to help our Church survive the pandemic. Father Chip and Father Adolfo and the Vestry have guided Grace La Gracia forward during the pandemic. This has been accomplished while under an austerity budget. The pews and other parts of the church have been sanitized to prepare them for our return. Tape has been placed on the chairs to help us remember to stay 6 ft. apart. Our acolytes and ushers have returned to their service at Grace. We were able to celebrate the glorious Resurrection at Grace on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Grace Church now needs your money to continue operating our church. I know that the covid-19 virus has affected the way everyone handles their finances. We understand that in this time of crises some people are unemployed or have reduced hours to work and may need financial assistance themselves. Hopefully you received a stimulus check. We ask each person to use a part of their finances to bring their pledge up to date. There are many ways to pay your pledge:

- Write a check and mail it to Grace LaGracia Church
- Write a check and put it through the slot in the door of Grace Church
- Arrange for your bank to send a check weekly/monthly to Grace Church
- Use Paypal, Zelle or other electronic service to give to Grace Church

The parishioners of Grace Church have always been a family. We are experiencing a “new normal” together. We can help Grace Church (our family) succeed in its mission by contributing the money that we pledged. Your good stewardship, along with God’s love and guidance, will help us have a better tomorrow.

Charlotte Roberson, Stewardship Co-Chair

MAYORDOMÍA EN EL VERANO 2021

El verano pasado, cuando escribí un artículo sobre Mayordomía en el Ángelus, no tenía idea de que el Coronavirus nos afectaría hasta y después del verano de 2021. Durante este año hemos experimentado dolor, pérdida y ansiedad. Pero Dios siempre ha estado ahí cuidando a su rebaño. Cuando le damos de nuestro tiempo, talento y dinero, lo ayudamos a cuidar de su rebaño.

Dar tiempo ha incluido hacer llamadas para verificar el bienestar de nuestros feligreses, recolectar y entregar alimentos a los necesitados (Food Alliance, Shopping Sisters, Food Cupboard), visitar a los feligreses (cuidado pastoral), distribuir información sobre Covid-19 y la vacuna, utilizando las redes sociales para ampliar la audiencia de nuestros sermones y participando en la junta parroquial y en varios comités de la iglesia.

La donación de talento ha incluido todo lo que se ha hecho durante esta pandemia para ayudar a nuestra Iglesia a sobrevivir a la pandemia. El padre Chip y el padre Adolfo y la junta parroquial han guiado a Grace La Gracia hacia adelante durante la pandemia. Esto se ha logrado con un presupuesto de austeridad. Los bancos y otras partes de la iglesia han sido desinfectados para prepararlos para nuestro regreso. Se ha colocado cinta adhesiva en las sillas para ayudarnos a recordar que debemos mantenernos a una distancia de 6 pies. Nuestros acólitos y ujieres han regresado a su servicio en Grace. Pudimos celebrar la gloriosa resurrección en Grace el domingo de Pascua, 4 de abril de 2021.

Grace Church ahora necesita su dinero para continuar operando nuestra iglesia. Sé que el virus covid-19 ha afectado la forma en que todos manejan sus finanzas. Entendemos que en estos tiempos de crisis algunas personas están desempleadas o tienen un horario reducido para trabajar y pueden necesitar ayuda financiera. Con suerte, recibió un cheque de estímulo. Le pedimos a cada persona que utilice una parte de sus finanzas para actualizar su compromiso. Hay muchas formas de pagar su contribución:

- Escriba un cheque y envíelo por correo a Grace La Gracia
- Escriba un cheque y deposítelo e el buzón colocado en la puerta de Grace Church que está en Main St.
- Haga arreglos para que su banco envíe un cheque semanal / mensual a Grace Church
- Utilice Paypal, Zelle u otro servicio electrónico para donar a Grace Church

Los feligreses de Grace Church siempre han sido una familia. Estamos experimentando una "nueva normalidad" juntos. Podemos ayudar a Grace Church (nuestra familia) a tener éxito en su misión contribuyendo con el dinero que prometimos. Su buena mayordomía, junto con el amor y la guía de Dios, nos ayudará a tener un mejor mañana.

Charlotte Roberson,

Encargada de Mayordomia



The Importance Of Hymns In Worship

By Peter Roberts

Hymn singing is a tradition that continues to be a vital part of the worship experience. Hymns help us to grow spiritually and nurture us in our desire to learn about God and about ourselves.

One of the most important forms of worship is the singing of hymns. Hymns both ancient and modern are important because they teach us about our faith:

***“The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With his own blood he brought her and for her life He died.”***

Singing hymns reminds us of important biblical ideas and truths. Hymns incorporate poetry that serves as a valuable resource helping the congregant connect with the word of God. They remind us of how past generations interpreted scripture, and sheds light on their understanding of God and spirituality:

***“O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.”***

In conclusion, the singing of hymns is important because hymns unite the congregation and provide a sense of peace and security to the individual. Hymns give us all a sense of reverence and identity. They help us reflect on our faith and inspire us to press on as we learn lessons from poets and musicians past to present. Hymn singing helps us renew our faith and brings us all closer to God and the promise of salvation through Grace.



Making Music at Grace Church

By Ross Keiser

Well Grace, I'm not sure if you can believe it, but I have been singing for the congregation for over a decade. It still feels like yesterday that I was stumbling through sight reading the hymns with Tim Lewis. I've witnessed the coming and goings of several pastors, watched babies be baptized, seen J-to-A's move into adulthood, and prayed for those who have passed into new life. This past year, however, has been remarkably different from how those events have traditionally unfolded. Peter, Abby, and I have sought to evolve with the times, each week trying to bring a little added divinity through the music that we offer.

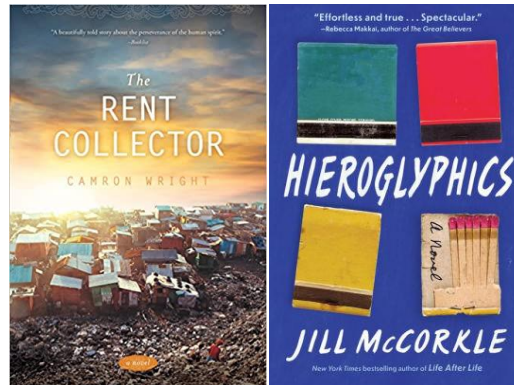
These Covid times have been trying. The lockdowns and modifications have not only strained people's physical health, but also their financial, emotional, and spiritual health. It is not hard for me to admit or surmise that I am not the only one who has felt the effects. I am so grateful to Grace for allowing me to continually use my voice as an outlet of my expression. Every week the anthems or hymns are different, but each week I try to reach people just the same. I think the continuation of music was and continues to be necessary for people's well-being. Continuity goes a long way in feeling normal in abnormal times.

I miss the choir. And at the risk of putting words in other peoples' mouth, I will also say that *we* miss the choir. I miss the beautiful harmonies that gently bring us to a lean place. To me a choir is always the most natural form of church music. More broadly than just Grace, the choir is always a microcosm of each individual parish, with Grace being the same. The diversity of Grace has always been reflected in the choir's repertoire. English Anglican, Gospel, Latin American, Plainsong, Chants, all serving as a reflection of *us*, as individual parishioners and as a unified community.

I am glad that our modifications to our repertoire have been appreciated (or so I'm told!). And I am happy that our music could more greatly reflect the world's current situation. During this time, Peter, Abby, and I have striven to be more introspective, contemplative, and ethereal. We have strayed from the strictures of classical form. We have tried to reflect the necessity of the time in going with the flow, in being flexible, in just letting the music be what it is supposed to be, an outpouring.

I hope that Church has been a comfort for those who need it. I hope that we have provided and continue to provide just what the parish needs every week. I hope that we have brought you closer to God. I hope that we have helped you cope. In short, I hope that we have provided what has been provided to me. I cannot wait to have these masks come off and see all your smiling faces again. Please continue to be safe. Please continue to continue on. God Bless.

Grace Church Book Club Update



The Book Club will wrap up its current and 21st year on Tuesday, June 8, at 7 pm with a Zoom discussion of our last two book selections: **Hieroglyphics** by Jill McCorkle that explores the memories parents leave behind and *The Rent Collector*, a story of hope, by Camron Wright. Although the Book Club will take a break from monthly meetings during the summer it doesn't mean we come to a halt! Traditionally, we remain engaged with a summer read that we review when we return to our regular schedule in the fall. This summer, we're tackling **Alexander Hamilton**, the biography by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow—the very same book that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to create *Hamilton*, the musical that took Broadway by storm. Watch this space for details on launching our next season in the fall. Until then, here's to better days ahead, including a great, healthy, and fun summer! Interested in the Book Club? (Contact Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com)).



“What I Learned from the Pandemic”
Winning Essays in the Lifting Up Westchester Youth Contest

For the past several years, Lifting Up Westchester has invited local students in grades 7 through 12 to enter an essay contest. The invitation went out again this year for students to reflect on the last 10 months and write on the theme: “What I learned from the pandemic.” Winners were chosen in four categories: 7th and 8th grade, 9th and 10th grade, 11th and 12th grade, and English as a Second Language. There were cash prizes for each category.

Angelus readers can greatly profit from reading what these talented young people have written about their reactions to the past pandemic year that has affected all of us in so many different ways. Rather than printing all the winning essays now, this issue includes the 1st place 11th and 12th grade winning essay as well as the 1st place winning essay in the English as a Second Language category. The other winning essays will be included in future editions.


Can Anything Good Come out of this Pandemic?

By Alyssa Lee, 11th Grade

As 2020 began, and promptly ended, the motto for our year soon became “We are living in unprecedented times.” The arrival of a global pandemic set us on edge, and every moment after was spent evading the assaults launched on us by the world in hopes that we would soon grow weary, and seek solace in resignation. The pandemic has exposed that there are two diseases ravaging our society: COVID 19 and racism.

Although many denied the existence of systemic racism, over the course of quarantine, the inequalities in America’s criminal justice system became evident. From the unjust killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, James Scurlock and more, to the many accounts of black men, women and children being wrongfully brutalized. As Lincoln once said in his famous *Gettysburg Address*, “These dead shall not have died in vain.” The deaths of these beloved members of the Black community sparked mass protesting that spanned the globe. All over, people with a voice took to making themselves heard in the streets, in the media, on the news, and by all other means to ensure justice for those who are wronged everyday by the system sworn to protect them. The only way to change the inequities that stem from a system created on the backs of black slaves, a system that thrives on the wrongful convictions of black men and women, and a system solely created to legally sustain the racial hierarchy is to completely dismantle and rebuild it. We cannot further ourselves as a nation without first ridding the very organization that holds us back. A majority of police related deaths come from the simple fact that police are not equipped to handle situations that do not require force. We need to initiate a program in which police officers are trained to de-escalate situations. They are individuals who have had years of rigorous drill practices and exercises. In many circumstances, it is not the police officers, but rather the other party who are often completely overcome by fear.

An ordinary citizen is going to be afraid when standing before individuals who have the power and authority to inflict great amounts of physical pain. A police officer should be able to use the

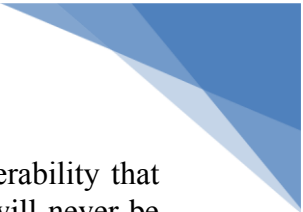


skills they have accumulated to resolve a situation without having to resort to fatal violence. There is no excuse.

As these changes are made to the fundamentals of our nation, on a smaller scale, I can work to combat racism within my own community. Anti-racism begins with us and the people we choose to surround ourselves with. Constantly working to put an end to old habits, rewiring our mindsets, being open to learning, and especially highlighting the voices of the oppressed community is what we can do to encourage positive change. I can enrich myself in the history of our country, becoming familiar with all that is good and bad and disseminating this information to those who are eager to learn, and above all, to those who choose to turn their backs on the truth. As the pandemic works to displace all those who work so hard, we can put a spotlight on organizations like “Lifting Up Westchester” who make it their jobs to restore hope to all when it seems so far gone. As we work to educate, we can also help those suffering in our communities by offering food, shelter, love, comfort, and most importantly, support. We must learn from the downfalls riddled in our past and work to make progress for the generations to come.

The pandemic brought about academic challenges sheathed in the racial tensions running rampant in our society. Remote learning has simultaneously severed connection with classmates, yet also furthered it. We have been prompted to create virtual study groups to help each other through this new era of learning. As teachers work to get accustomed to an online lesson plan, students have banded together despite being miles away, tucked in the corners of their room, attending zoom calls and scheduling meetings. However, many have taken to conducting themselves in ways that would not be suitable in a physical classroom. Remote learning provided a false sense of confidence for students to be blatantly disrespectful to staff and other classmates. The screen has offered a veil of security in which those individuals can hurl racial epithets without ever facing consequences. I have learned that people would rather be flat-out discriminatory to others online than face them in person. In school, problems like this arose often, but never to this extent. It becomes a problem when students are subjected to racial trauma and rightful punishment is not observed. It becomes a problem when the security of one’s home is violated as words dripping with malice reverberate across the four walls surrounding them. We have to take to social media to vocalize the wrongings we observe because institutions often prove futile in situations like these. Hands are tied, mouths are silenced, and what was meant to come to light gets shrouded in darkness. It is up to us, the youth, to shine light on our situation, and destroy what has become normal. Because, it is not normal to hear derogatory statements coming from the mouths of those who were supposed to be your friends, in and out of the classroom. It is not normal to turn a blind eye to the corruption and privilege that courses through the veins of our nation. If we allow this to go on, we jeopardize our future within the blink of an eye.

I have high hopes that reform will be made in the years to come. That our society will be rid of the pandemic that steals from us. It ripped away our lives, our loved ones, our happiness, and encased us in this never-ending cloud of despair. Looking into the future, I hope efforts will be made to rebuild our shattered criminal justice system, and we will live in a society that is not stingy to dish out justice to those who deserve and need it. I fear that those who consider the two pandemics that we fight tooth and nail to live through will continue to think they are nothing but a hoax. The bodies that litter our streets and the lives cut short by hate and disease will not falter



because some refuse to change their mentality. We mustn't be afraid of the vulnerability that comes with knowing the truth, or else we will forever remain stuck. Progression will never be made and we will find ourselves in a steady decline until no longer does the human race roam the earth.

From this pandemic, we will learn how to become united as a people. We will bond through the painful losses we suffered and make it through to the end because our strength is in numbers. The nation will crack right down the middle if we continue to live divisive and separate from one another. We must take time to learn and listen to the struggles of others. This pandemic was a brutal, unforgiving wake-up call that the world so desperately needed. Systemic racism is real. COVID-19 is real. We must stare hard into the ugly face of the truth and show no signs of backing down. It is from the truth we learn. We seek out what is fact and use it to fill our vessels, dispelling fiction and examining truth. This pandemic is living proof that our actions have dire consequences, and we, as a people, need to be cognizant of what we do.

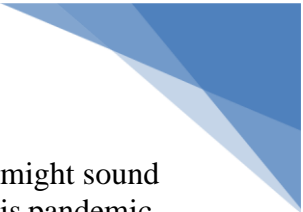
What I Learned from the Pandemic

By Yoshiaki Shimizu, 9th Grade, English as a Second Language

2020 has been a year in which I wore my pajamas the most. The arrival of COVID-19 has brought major changes to human life and has taken away so many things from us. The biggest changes and challenges I faced during this pandemic were having to get used to a new style of living. By this, I mean having to wear a mask, not being able to go outside, having a virtual school, and more. Of course, I know these elements are required in order to stay safe but these were very difficult for me especially not being able to go outside to exercise. Before the pandemic, I would always go to gyms and pools to exercise but since COVID-19 started, all of these places were closed so I had nowhere to go. Even if I wanted to go outside and run, I would have to wear a mask, and having a mask on when running is just very painful. Therefore, having some freedoms restricted was definitely a big change for me during this pandemic. Of course, there were more people who were suffering in a different way than I, especially the homeless and the people with low income.

In my opinion, the biggest challenge for the homeless is the lack of safety. Most homeless people live on the streets and during this pandemic, this is very dangerous. The streets in America are not very clean and adding on, there are going to be a lot of interactions with people so the chance of getting the virus is very high. Along with the risk, they are also going to suffer from medical care because the homeless wouldn't be able to afford the money for it after they get the virus and in the worst situation, they could even lose their life. This was a huge difference for me because I spent most of my time in my house during this time so I was a lot safer. In short, the homeless and the people with low income probably suffered a lot more in this pandemic than I did.

During this pandemic, I did play a lot of video games and this was the way that kept me connected to people. On Christmas, I played some games that involved talking to teammates using voice chat. I met some people who spoke English but also some people who spoke different languages than I did. If it was someone who speaks English, we would start saying stuff like "Hey man" or "What's up bro" and talk with each other about our day or just about the game. If it was someone



who couldn't speak English, we would just say random things. These conversations might sound meaningless but to me, this was a way to forget the worries and stresses I had during this pandemic. Staying connected with people during this time was very helpful to me because it gave me so much confidence and emotional support.

I have seen many ways in which humans have changed in order to adapt to COVID-19 and the most relatable one to me is the change of learning style. During this pandemic, most schools have changed to a virtual style using online meetings to prevent viral transmission of the virus between people. Although not being able to meet in person is a little frustrating, I think this was a very fast adaptation. I also saw some adaptability in my apartment such as limiting the number of people inside an elevator, stopping face-to-face deliveries, and sanitizing the building every day. Outside in the restaurants and shops, I saw sneeze guards placed on every table and counter to prevent the spread of infection. Even though the virus struck very suddenly, people were very flexible and used a variety of ways in order to survive during this crisis.

After seeing this, I learned many things and some of my values have changed. Now I value connections with my family and friends more. Not that I didn't value them before, but through this experience, I realized again that connections with people are very precious. If I was in a situation with no connections with people at these times, I would have probably felt very lonely, worried, and stressed. Because I had these connections, whenever I felt worried, I would think about how they are also trying to fight this virus and this gave me the courage to stay confident. A year ago, I probably did not value these connections as much but because I had these experiences, I realized how important and precious connections are. Therefore, in many ways, this pandemic was a very memorable event for me in life.

During this pandemic, Lifting up Westchester also showed great resilience and adaptability to protect its clients and staff. Lifting up Westchester is an organization designed to support these people by providing food, shelter, and essentially, training them to become independent. It has many programs such as housing stabilization, helping with employment, and after school tutoring. Since COVID-19 started, Lifting up Westchester has changed and modified different ways in order to keep its clients and staff safe. They increase sanitization protocols, placed sneeze guards on tables, and changed their tutoring program to virtual style. These changes were very similar to what I saw and experienced during this crisis and therefore, I think Lifting up Westchester was being very resilient and adapted very fast to COVID=19.

This virus has brought so many inconveniences and so much disaster to us. Even though this tragedy might mean something different to each one of us, it doesn't change the fact that we believe that we can overcome this challenge together.

STRESS – LAYING DOWN YOUR BURDENS

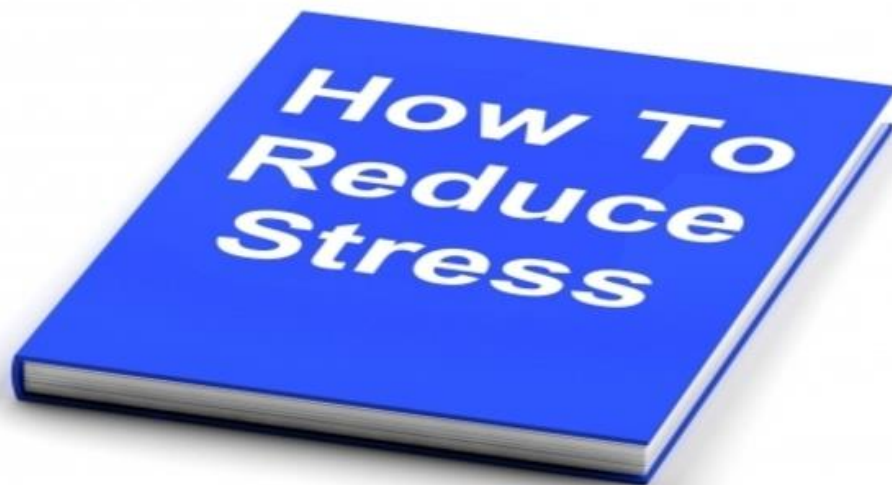
If this Covid Pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we are all subject to huge daily stress levels about almost everything! It is the “given” of our daily lives and it is not easy to combat. It has affected everyone. We have had to learn new ways to cope with our anxieties. Some of us have learned more light-hearted ways to adjust. Some have sought help from others. Some may have baked more bread or eaten more brownies! We have probably observed that the longer we hold on to our stress, the more hurtful it becomes. Here may be a few pointers!


A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

We could learn a lot from crayons...Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Life is a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once.





*There is a river
that flows through the world from God
bringing nourishment.*

A Reflection Haiku written by the Reverend Stephen Holton

The Episcopal Reverend Stephen Holton has given us a very unique and special gift in his newly published book “Haiku for the Road.”

Many of his Haiku poems were written as a part of his daily devotions. The poem above deeply touched my heart as a perfect example of such spots where our earthly emotions meet with eternal love and move us to a spiritual encounter with our Creator.

What is Haiku? Haiku was originally created by poets in Japan. It is a poem with three carefully constructed lines. Line one has 5 syllables, line 2 has 7 syllables, and line 3 has 5 syllables. It is designed to paint a picture in only a few words. Traditionally, the picture is of nature, weather, etc., bringing to mind a brief moment in time. The poet paints with words an extraordinary picture of something very ordinary. It is written in the present tense and usually does not rhyme. The last line is meant to make a meaningful observation of the poem’s subject.

Modern Haiku writers have often expanded the scope of their poems to include daily life and activities and observations. This enables the readers to see their own daily experiences in a new and creative way.

*Online meetings mean
You can have wine and garlic
And no one will know.
A snapshot haiku*

The Holtons are friends of mine and of many of us locally. For a number of years Stephen was the Rector of St. Paul’s on the Hill in Ossining, which happens to be the parish of my daughter and her family. He married my granddaughter and her husband three years ago. His wife, Charlotte, loves to sing, and she often joined our own Grace choir for Sunday services during their time in Ossining. Our Winter 2014 Angelus published the thoughts of their son David while he was teaching music in a mission in the Philippines. David plays the harp and has played that instrument at Grace. We published his thoughts once again in the Summer 2015 issue.

*As you go through life,
bring food from your faith and feed
other travelers.*

*Go in your weakness.
The Lord sends you to serve the
weakness in others.*

Reverend Holton’s book, “Haiku for the Road,” is available on Amazon and from Barnes and Noble. It could be a meaningful addition to your own devotional experiences.

After such inspiration, you might like to try writing your own Haikus. Here is a beautiful one written by our own parishioner Michael Heffner for our recent celebration of Mothers’ Day.



Joyful Motherhood
Not what you thought it would be
Everlasting Love

By Mary Baker



A Lesson from the Old Testament Book of Malachi

Malachi 3:3 says: “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.”

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: ‘He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.’ She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, ‘How do you know when the silver is fully refined?’

He smiled at her and answered, ‘Oh, that’s easy – when I see my image in it.’

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. And whatever you’re going through, you’ll be a better person in the end.



Good Michael Heffner !

For many years, Michael Heffner and I have shared the responsibilities of getting this Angelus produced and sent out to all Grace parishioners. We worked so well together. I accumulated the bulk of the material and Michael accepted the full responsibility for reproducing it into print and getting the final product into parishioners' hands. In addition, he added so many smile-producing additions by including photos from his vast accumulation of photographs.

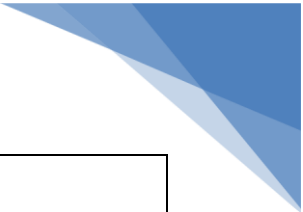
Now Michael is moving on to an even bigger calling in preparation for a call to the priesthood. His studies will soon begin at the Yale Divinity School. Michael has been a huge part of the life of Grace Church, and occupies an important place in all of our hearts. He welcomes our prayers as he follows his new journey in the path to which God has called him.

Hello, **Linda Gallo!**

They often say that the busiest people are always the first to step up to accept additional responsibilities. This is certainly true for the Angelus! It seems that our Senior Warden, Linda Gallo, has offered to take over from Michael the production aspects of the quarterly Angelus, beginning with this Summer issue. This is not an easy task and I applaud her for agreeing to do the work needed to keep the Angelus coming to our congregation.

I personally am so very grateful that she has been willing to take on this new job. I also know that the congregation thanks her as well.

By Mary Baker



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***The Deadline For The Autumn Angelus
Is August 15th. As Always, Thank You For
Your Contributions!***