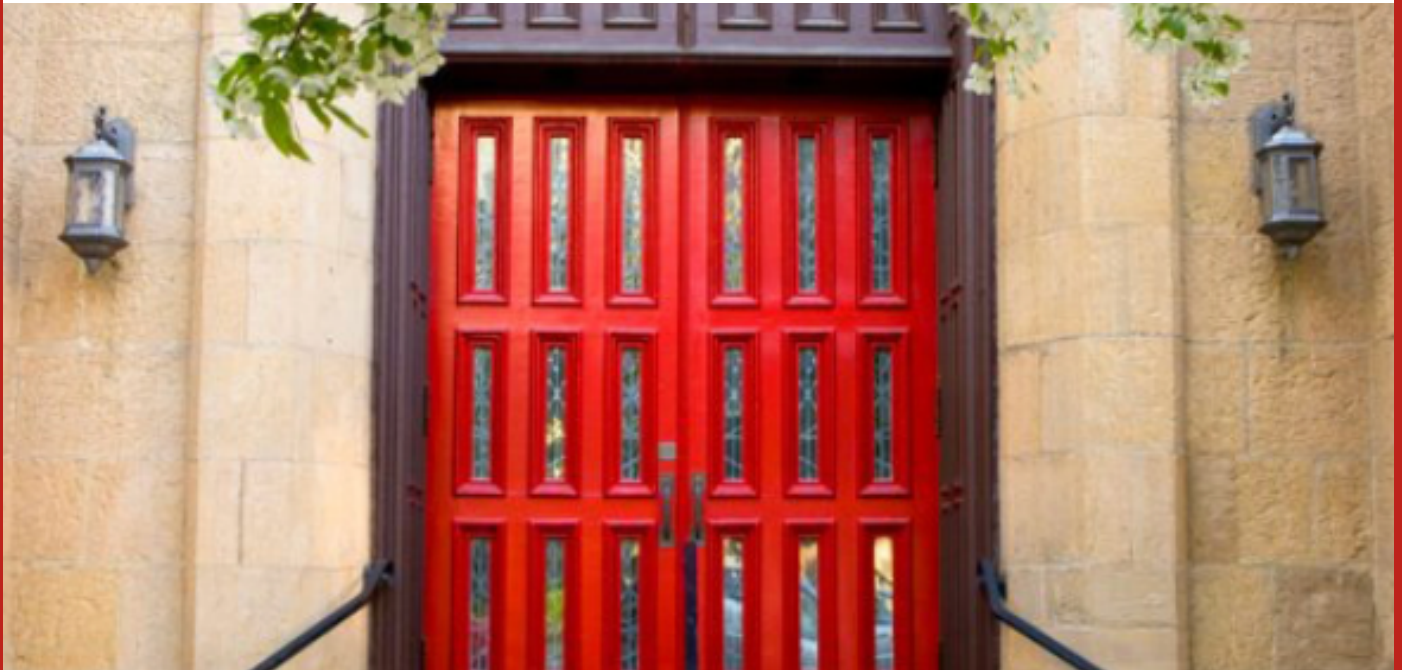


JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE #2

FROM THE BELL TOWER

News & updates from our church for our community



OTHER STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

- An Afternoon with Jay Hulme
- The Christmas Star
- The new Kids Page

Where Anglican tradition engages the contemporary world, Grace Church opens its doors on Madison's Capitol Square, inviting all to join us in sharing the love of Jesus Christ in worship and in outreach to our neighbors and the world.



A Very Merry Christmas

BY ERIN SCHUURMANS,
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

This month saw numerous activities take place around Grace. We had a special visit from St. Nicholas; we got to sample delicious saffron buns handed out by a pair of St. Lucia's; we decorated Christmas cookies and had them judged by an expert cookie judge; we came together to sing carols and listen to the words that speak of Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Our children showed us the meaning of Christmas through their pageant, The Christmas Star. We said goodbye to a dear friend and longtime member, Gwen JeSchonek. And lastly, but certainly not least, we celebrated the birth of our Savior with friends and family, old and new.

Galatians 3:28 NIV: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

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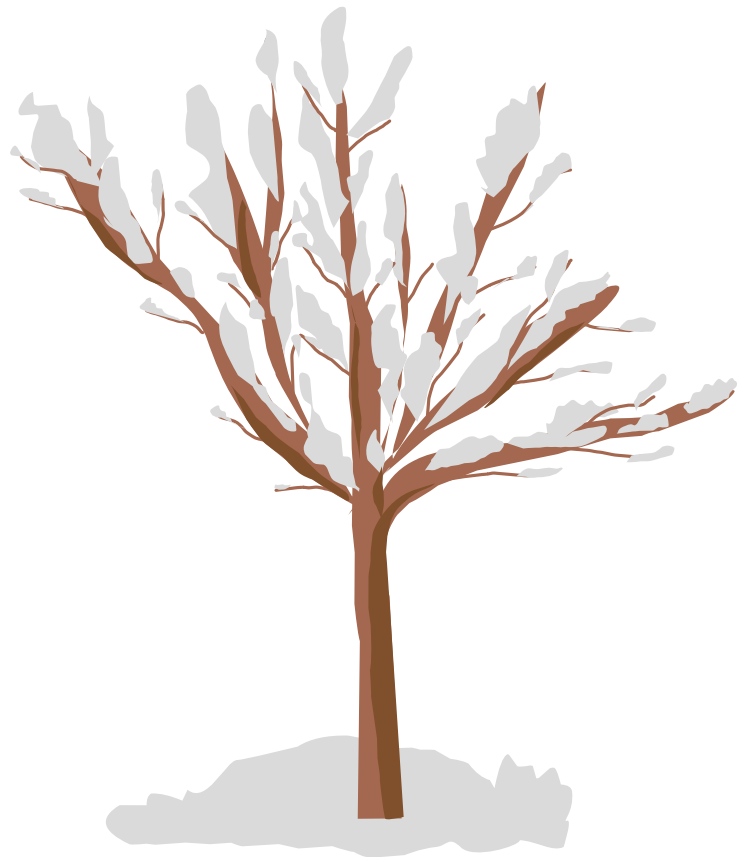
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE CLERGY: AN AFTERNOON WITH JAY HULME

BY FATHER JONATHAN

I was delighted at the opportunity to spend a few hours alone with Jay Hulme, poet, trans Christian, and churchwarden of St. Nicholas Church, Leicester, one of the oldest churches in England. I had encountered Jay on Twitter years ago and was taken with his poetry, his exuberant faith, and his escapades visiting old churches and climbing things. He was in the US for a month-long book tour that concluded with the Wisconsin Council of Churches Annual Meeting. We hit it off immediately, as he talked about his travels in the US and the lack of deep historical sensitivity in the people he encountered. On our way to Grace, I drove him to see one of Madison's most famous landmarks, the Frank Lloyd Wright designed First Unitarian Society. Then we stopped at the Bear Mound Park in the Vilas neighborhood where we chatted about the erasure of Native American people, history, and culture, from the stories we tell ourselves about American History.



At Grace, he took pictures of the nave, our stained-glass windows, and then I ushered him to the bell tower. He climbed all the way up while I waited for him on one of the lower levels (I had actually been all the way up a few weeks ago and didn't think it necessary for me to make the climb again so soon).



We shared stories about the challenges of caring for an old building although the challenges he faces are of completely different caliber. St. Nicholas dates to the 9th century but was constructed on the site of a 6th century church that was itself built on the ruins of Roman baths. The church sits next to a portion of the tallest surviving Roman wall in Britain. One of his responsibilities as churchwarden is to gather up the bones that make their way to the surface from the thousands of burials in the churchyard. He wraps them in linen and keeps them under the altar until there are enough to warrant reburial by a priest. Jay has a wild and fierce faith that is reflected in his poetry and in his seeking out of the strange stories and sacred places that cover the landscape of Britain and are traces of the lives and faith of Christians of the distant past.



One little poem that speaks to me powerfully because I spend a lot of time in the empty nave:

A Congregation of None

*When the churches are alone
They say their own prayers
to God. If you're patient
you might hear them speak,
in the spider-rustle and the mould-song,
or the creaking of wood as it
swells and contracts with the sun.*

--Jay Hulme, *The Vanishing Song*,
Canterbury Press, 2022, p. 38.

Jay Hulme is an award winning transgender poet, speaker and theologian. Alongside his writing, and his duties as Churchwarden at an 1100+ year old church, he teaches poetry in schools, offers poetry writing workshops, performs sensitivity reads, gives lectures and keynote speeches, and preaches regularly in churches and cathedrals across the country, and occasionally worldwide. He's also known for his ability to gain access to some of the hidden (and scarily high up) parts of churches and cathedrals, and his willingness to share those adventures with the world through photography.

With a special interest in queer rights and theology, Jay's work engages particularly with ideas of faith, place, and identity, with many of his poetry books for adults being published by one of the UK's foremost Christian publishers.

With books available for children, teens, and adults, Jay is a versatile writer, with the ability to engage a broad range of people with his work, both on the page and off, through entertaining and thought provoking talks, performances, lectures, sermons, and regular media appearances.

VISITING GRACE

With open hearts, we invite you to join us on our journey of faith. Walk through the Red Doors into the warmth of our Grace Church community. Whether you self identify as gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgender, queer or prefer no label, we all belong to one family in God's sight; accepted, valued and beloved.

Sundays

8:00 AM Rite I - Holy Eucharist
8:45 AM Coffee Hour I (Villas Hall)
9:30 AM Children's Church (lower level)
10:00 AM Rite II - Holy Eucharist (Nursery available)
11:15 AM Coffee Hour (Villas Hall)
6:00 PM Hymn Sing (Zoom)

Wednesdays

12:10 PM - Noon Eucharist
5:30 PM - High School Youth Group with Pizza (Villas Hall)

Updated Masking Policy

Because of the recent spike in respiratory illnesses we are encouraging people to wear masks to protect themselves and others. There are supplies of masks available at the entrances to the church. If you have questions about our policies, please contact Fr. Jonathan

MINISTRIES FOR ALL

The Grace Nursery is Open for Your Infants and Toddlers!

The Grace Nursery is open for children ages infant through 4 during the 10am worship service on Sundays. Please feel free to bring your young children to the Nursery at the lower level between 9:00 and 9:45am to sign in.

Christian Formation

Spring semester of Christian Formation for our Pre-K through 8th Grade begins January 7th. Erin Schuurmans is excited to be leading the children on an adventure through faith and doctrine as we explore what it means to be an Episcopalian in today's world.

Our teen programming is underway, as well. Meeting on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm in Vilas Hall, our teenagers are engaging in conversations around faith, and enjoy pizza and fellowship together. Please contact Father John Francis with any questions about our Christian Formation activities and programs.

Hymn Sing

Please join us this and every Sunday at 6:00 pm to enjoy hymns via zoom. Our Hymn Sing is led by Steve Webster. The zoom link changes weekly and is found in the current issue of GraceNotes, or by emailing assistantadmin@gracechurchmadison.org.

Hearing Loop/Listening Devices Available during Sunday Services

Access to the hearing loop is available through your hearing aids set to "T-coil" or "loop listeners," which may be used with or without hearing aids. Please ask an usher for assistance, if needed.

LAY MINISTRY

Healing Prayer Now Offered Two Ways

Members of the Healing Prayer Team are available for prayers in person on Sunday mornings at 10. In addition, we continue to honor prayer requests sent in by phone or email. To ask for prayers, contact one of the co-leaders of the team, the Rev. Margaret Irwin at mbirwin@charter.net or Kara Pagano at baronesspagano@gmail.com. Please tell us if you want us to keep your communication in confidence or if you are requesting that we share it with the team, who will also keep it confidential.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are Available

LEMs (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) are among us at Grace, and now that COVID is somewhat under control, we'll be seeing more of them. Early in the history of the church there was a practice of taking the Eucharist to those who were ill and unable to gather in person with the Christian Community. In 1985, the Episcopal Church approved appointment of LEMs in our congregations to engage in that ministry. It provides a significant way to reach out and draw us all together. If you are interested in becoming a LEM, please contact Deacon Carol Smith. And PLEASE, if you feel that you would like for a LEM to visit you at home or in the hospital, let Carol know.

WINTER HYMN SING

This week's Hymn Sing selection starts out in North Carolina where a volunteer chorus artfully renders Angels from the Realms of glory
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elxRew08I_Q

Then quickly across the water to Westminster's for one of Margaret Irwin's favorites

A Stable Lamp is Lighted (dedicated to Margaret Irwin)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vspn98lcJc4>

Staying in the UK for the Forest Green setting (with text written by a relative of former Grace Church member Dr. Benjamin Brooks) of O Little Town of Bethlehem
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKPYOf2aSF0>

and finally to Lagos, Nigeria for a carol medley starting with DingDongDing

Being a part of Grace church means that we get to make a difference in the world - either through our participation with the MOSES and WISDOM project or caring for UW college students during the holidays, we strive always to bring Christ from the nave into the streets around us.

We hope you enjoy, just click on or copy and paste the URL, pull up the chairs, "Sing to the Lord a new Song



COMMUNITY NOTES

Being a part of Grace church means that we get to make a difference in the world - either through our participation with the MOSES and WISDOM project or caring for UW college students during the holidays, we strive always to bring Christ from the nave into the streets around us.



The October/November MOSES newsletter has arrived! The newsletter is an easy way to stay informed about important issues in the criminal legal system that Christians need to know about. The lead story covers the October 10 rally at the Capitol to end the ongoing prison lock downs. Another involves the change in retention of eviction-filing records that MOSES helped promote.

You can read the newsletter through GraceNotes or pick up a copy on the literature table in the church. If you'd like to learn more about MOSES, please get in touch with Grace members Margaret Irwin (mbirwin@charter.net) or Thomas Smith (papalevi@yahoo.com).

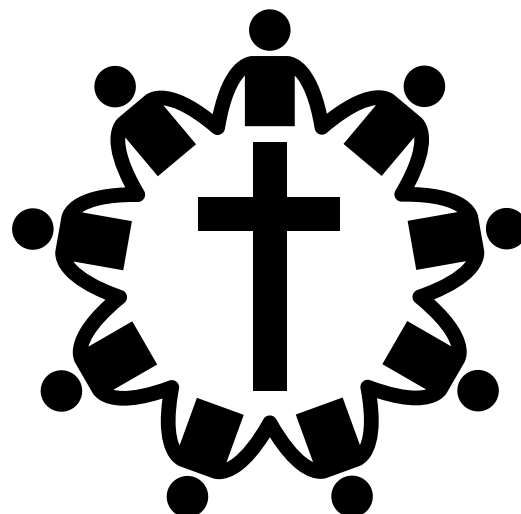


Land Acknowledgement to the Ho-Chunk People

We honor and acknowledge the Ho-Chunk people, the traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to the Ho-Chunk elders, past, present, and future, who call this land on which we gather their home. We appreciate their wisdom, their culture, and their presence among us today as the host people of this land. We lament the injustices done to the original inhabitants and the injustices done to this land in the centuries since. We seek the courage and wisdom to heal the wounds of the past and build a better future together, in deep solidarity.

COMMITTEE AND PARISH ROUNDUP

Grace Church is home to nearly 20 different committees and organizations. Some of them are focused inwardly on the growth, development, and care of the church building and parish, such as the Vestry and the Development Fund Trust Committee. Others are outward facing and focus on bringing the love of Christ to those around us and in the community. Regardless of your interests, there is a place for you at Grace.



For more information about the following organizations or if you're wanting to get involved, please contact assistantadmin@gracechurchmadison.org.

Adult Formation - Tuesday Bible Study
Creating a More Just Community
Compassion Circle
Episcopal Church Women
Grace Food Pantry
Haiti Partnership
Healing Prayer Team

Hymn Sing
Mission and Outreach
Music Ministry
Pride Committee
Rector's Guild
St. Margaret's Altar Guild
Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee - Rob Lamanske

The Grace Welcome Committee was established in June 2018, with the first group meeting held on July 1, 2018. The overall goal of the committee is to discuss new approaches to welcoming potential new members and to make non-members and visitors comfortable with the church and its members. The first task was to create a "7-Minute Welcome" after the 10 am service.

A 7-Minute Welcome Team was formed from a subgroup of members from the Welcome Committee. Prior to the pandemic, the 7-Minute Welcome Team members would rotate taking turns conducting the 7-Minute Welcome each week. A large sign with the words "7-Minute Welcome" was created that the designated member held up so that interested individuals knew where to go after the service. The Welcome Committee intends to restart this initiative in the next few months.

One of the other initiatives of the Welcome Committee was to create name tags for all individuals to wear during both the 10 am service and the subsequent coffee hour. Creation of the name tags and the purchase of organizing/storage trays has been completed. These trays are located on one of the big wooden tables in the back of the nave. Name tag baskets for members to drop off tags when going home are located on the back table and a table within Vilas Hall; the latter basket enables members to deposit their name tags after coffee hour. Name tags are then reinserted in their proper location alphabetically by members who staff the fish bowl the following week. Welcome committee members are exploring options for more convenient storage of the name tags in the future.

Finally, since one of the objectives of a number of Grace Committees is to create a welcoming environment for both current and new members from a variety of different communities, discussions are currently ongoing to potentially share this welcoming initiative by developing new strategies to do so jointly by the following groups: Welcome Committee, Pride Committee, Ushers Committee, and Mission and Outreach Committee.

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Rector's Guild December Eucharist - Shelley Hansen-Blake

Grace Church Rector's Guild held its Annual Christmas Eucharist Celebration on December 12th, with Fr. Jonathan Grieser presiding and Deacon Carol Smith assisting. Ginny Shannon graciously hosted the event in The Chapel at Oakwood Village University Woods. Lynn Morgan, Mary Ann Nanassy, Sally Andrews, and Shelley Hansen-Blake rounded out the Leadership Team with decorations and food to help make the celebration festive.

After the Eucharist Service, a delicious luncheon was enjoyed by everyone. It was a good time to catch up with old friends and meet a few new ones. The warmth and blessings of the season flowed freely in the beautiful atmosphere. In the spirit of sharing, a special collection was taken for a donation from Rector's Guild to The Beacon. On behalf of Rector's Guild, we wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year.



The Grace Photo Directory Project!

The Grace Photo Directory project is well underway!! While in the past our directory has had staged photos, we will be asking members for selfies or other easily available photos.

Erin Schuurmans will be contacting families alphabetically by last name over the next several months for photos to be submitted via email or text message.

If you have not submitted your photo and your last name has passed - fear not, Erin will be doing a second round of emails to make sure she's caught everyone.

If you need assistance with your photo or need help taking a selfie Erin will be available on Sundays after the 10 AM service.

To be sure everyone is included, please check the current No-photo Directory (in the Grace Members section of the Grace website) to ensure that you and your family are listed and that the information is correct. If you are not listed or your information is not correct, please let the Parish Administrator know admin@gracechurchmadison.org. If you need the pin for the Grace Members section of the website, contact the Parish Administrator at the address above.

We can't wait to see all of your beautiful faces!

PARISH VOICES

Do you have an interest that you want to share? Submit it to the office.

Traveling with Eileen

By Eileen Hocker

I'm on a journey to a place called Ordination. I felt the Holy Spirit's gentle pull and nudge to travel this journey a little before the pandemic hit. This trip has several stops along the way.

The first stop was to turn in lots of forms.

The next stop was with a discernment committee of people from Grace. They asked me questions; I shared my life; they listened very carefully to me and to God to see if I should continue on this journey. Their conclusion yes.

From there, the next steps came up back to back to back. More forms; university transcripts; a big psychological evaluation; and interviews by Diocesan clergy and lay people.

The journey quieted down a bit after that. Not much scenery, until up ahead a Check Point.

The Check Point guards carried results from my last series of stops. If my name was on their list, then I could pass through and continue. Well my name WAS on the list!

From the Check Point came a stop to sign up for a community service placement. So now I'm at the Grace Food Pantry.

Then a stop for education formation. Right now I'm in the Education for Ministry program (EfM).

Next stop down the road is the field placement to a different church in Wisconsin.

I'm still traveling. My trip began in the fall of 2021. Although the destination (ordination as a deacon) is 3 years away, I'm actually doing ministry right now.

I've done ministry before, so this journey feels like a natural next step. But how else do I feel? I feel a cacophony of emotions like: excitement, anxiety, overwhelmness, peace, nervousness, fun.

Please keep praying for me, as I keep on traveling!

Advent Reflection

By Jeremy Schuurmans

This Advent, for Saint Nicholas Day, each of our children received a new Bible. Harry was given a beautiful leather-bound edition. Luca received a children's Bible with gorgeous artwork. And Malcolm was given a Bible Stories board book, perfect for his little hands.

An unexpected gift that I received was seeing how they each approached the Bible in their own unique way. Harry loved the leather cover on his, with its embossed Celtic cross. He attends youth group at St. Dunstan's most Fridays, and he often reads from the Gospels during their Compline service. He loves to find the passages he reads in his own Bible and share them with us too.

For Luca, it was the text that intrigued him the most. One evening, he was sitting at the dining room table, reading from Genesis, when he stopped suddenly and exclaimed, "Wait, snakes could talk?!" This was followed by many more questions as he continued through Genesis, and we had some great conversations about how the stories can teach us truths, but don't necessarily have to be taken literally.

And little Malcolm, who loves to learn about the world through art, would point to unfamiliar things as we flipped through his Bible and ask their names, and proudly name the things he knew.

Even though each of our children responded to different aspects of the Bibles they received, they all responded in the same way: with wonder. What was so familiar to me, a leather-bound book, the serpent in the garden, a picture of Noah's ark, were new and wonderful to them, and it helped me see them in new and wonderful ways too.

As we begin a new year, I hope to pause more, wonder more, appreciate more, and see things in new ways; specifically, in my work, my church service, my parenting, my marriage, and my spiritual life. And I hope that this year can be a year of refreshment and new beginning for us all. This year, may God open our eyes to see anew with wonder, and help us share that wonder with others.

MEET THE 2024 VESTRY



Amy Robinson
Senior Warden

I have been a part of the Grace family my entire life. My parent's, Jean and Bill Chatterton, were longtime members of Grace and now lie in the columbarium. I was Baptized here in 1960, attended Sunday school and was confirmed at Grace. My husband Scott and I were married here in 1984. Following our marriage, we eventually our two boys (James and Quentin) began a 35 year, around the world odyssey with the US Navy but I always stayed close to Grace Church. When we visited my parents, we often attended services and of course heard all about the "goings on" from my mother. During our 35-year hiatus away from Madison we were active in various church communities, including at St. Francis Episcopal church in College Station, Texas where I was an active volunteer on several committees and a member of the Vestry just prior to moving back to Madison.

We always wanted to return to Madison following Scott's retirement and in 2019 I had the opportunity to transfer with my employer to a position here in Madison. After we arrived, I started attending services and joined a Bible study group during Lent in 2020. I thought, hooray, now I'm really going to get to meet new people. But not so fast and hello pandemic! Thankfully we are coming out of that and returning to a semblance of normal where we can work, play, and worship together. I have been on the Vestry for two years and the Junior Warden this past year. I am also the chairman of the Development Trust Fund and a member of the Parish Life committee.

Professionally, I am the Director of Manufacturing Science and Technology at Fujifilm CDI here in Madison where we develop and manufacture cell therapies for immune oncology and regenerative medicine indications. I enjoy swimming and rediscovered tennis during the pandemic. Our first grandchild (Henry) turned two this summer and he will be joined by a baby sister this winter. They live way too far away in Seattle so lots of travel is in our future.



Mary Schlaefer
Junior Warden

I have been involved with Grace since 2016. I value the many opportunities the Grace community offers for earnest reflection on what it means to be a Christian and what we are called to do as Christians today. I'm moved by the loving, generous spirit of the Grace community and commitment actively to address social injustice. I also find inspiration in Grace's history and the beauty of the building and musical programming.

I have participated in Foyers, Bible Study, the Native American Dialogue and have volunteered serving lunch at the Beacon with Grace colleagues. I've served on the Vestry and the Grace Finance Committee for the past two years.

I welcome the opportunity to contribute what I can to Grace. In my professional life I have been an attorney and served as the CEO of a large non-profit organization. I'll bring an understanding of financial and legal matters as well as property management to the role. I'm most excited to be a part of helping discern how Grace can best continue to be a beacon on the capitol square, providing love and care for all in our community. I will also focus on helping ensure Grace continues its responsible financial stewardship to ensure that we have the resources necessary to support our community and many mission activities now and into the future.



Bess Malson-Huddle - 2024

I was raised in St. James Episcopal Church in Essex Junction, Vermont and plan to attend the 10:00 am service there this Sunday with my mother, Lindsey Huddle. The Episcopal church is a big part of our family life. My mother has always been active in the church, served on the vestry, worked on committees, and taught Sunday School; she also works with the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and the VT Cooperative Christian Ministry. My sister has worked for the Episcopal Diocese of VT for the last 20 years at their school for special-needs youth. My sister and I were both married in the church in Vermont, and my son Hank was baptized at St. James.

I moved to Madison to pursue a doctorate in 2002 and began to attend Grace Church in 2003 (albeit irregularly, going home in the summer). I completed my degree in 2009 and moved back to VT (and also returned to St. James). In 2015, I got a job teaching communication at the UW-Madison School of Business, and my husband Nick and I bought a house in Oregon, WI. We started attending Grace services regularly in 2016 and decided to raise Hank at Grace. I assisted with Children's church for a year and then taught with Gwen JeSchonek 2018/2019. I have been looking for a good volunteer opportunity at Grace and am pleased to serve on the Vestry.



Steve Langlie - 2024



Jeremy Schuurmans - 2024

My family and I moved to Madison from the Pacific Northwest in 2020. Formerly Eastern Orthodox, we found our spiritual home in the Episcopal Church in early 2022, and have been active members of the Grace community ever since.

I enjoy serving in a variety of ways at Grace, and try to lend a hand wherever needed. I am an acolyte, lector, and eucharistic minister. I am also actively involved with the Pride Committee, the Altar Guild, and the Healing Prayer Team, among other committees. As a member of the vestry, I look forward to bringing my energy, creativity, and leadership experience to serve the community and help further the mission of Grace Church.

Mary and I have been worshipping at Grace about 3 years now. I help out by Live Streaming the worship services. About a year ago I was a facilitator for the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Grace as part of the vestry.



Suzy Buenger - 2025

I initially joined Grace in 2017 for its choir and music. I was quickly won over by its beauty, excellent services, progressive outreach and good works, and welcoming contacts made through choir, Foyer groups, and book, forum, and coffee hour discussions.



Marshall Cusic - 2025

Georgeanne and I have attended Grace Church since 2018 when we returned to Madison after I retired from medical practice at the Marshfield Clinic. We are pleased to be back in Madison as our daughters, Cyndi and Emily and families are here along with three grandkids.

While in Marshfield, I served on the Vestry for several years. There, I had the good fortune of participating in the unusual, but inspiring formation of a joint Episcopal-Lutheran communion now named "The Beloved Community" under Episcopal Priest, Mother (AKA "Momma") Jane Johnson. The Joint endeavor, blessed by both Episcopal and Lutheran Bishops has been successful beyond all expectations.

I am a retired physician and retired Navy Reservist of 27 years. Bike riding is my other passion, and I ride to church whenever the weather permits. I currently serve as a member of our crack Audio-Visual team providing live-streaming services for those unable to attend in person.



James Waldo - 2025

Cellist James Waldo serves as Lecturer in Cello for the Mead Witter School of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also Director of the Grace Presents concert series and Cello Instructor for the Madison Country Day School. James performs regularly as a chamber musician with Midsummer's Music in Door County and can be heard regularly in concert with the Edgewood Chamber Orchestra and the Madison Bach Musicians.

Before moving to Madison in 2017, James lived and worked in New York City, where he received a Master of Music degree and a Professional Studies Diploma from Mannes College, the New School for Music. While in New York, James served as principal cellist of the Cecilia Chorus of NY from 2015-2019, performed with the New York Pops Orchestra, and co-founded the Listen Closely Chamber Music Initiative, a collective of locally based musicians giving free live chamber music performances in the public gathering spaces of uptown Manhattan.



Shelley Hansen-Blake - 2026

My wife, Olwen, and I joined Grace Church in 2019 because we were looking for a welcoming faith community with a strong social justice mission. We certainly found it here. After retiring from a 35 year career in human services 4 years ago, supporting people with developmental and other disabilities, I was looking forward to finding new purpose and passion. I have since become a volunteer guardian for a woman with developmental disabilities, donate platelets and plasma regularly at the Red Cross, and co-chair the LGBTQ 50+ Alliance at the OutReach Community Center. Family is also a very important part of our lives, and we love spending time with our 5 grandchildren, as well as traveling when we can.

At Grace I have become an active member. I usher at the Sunday services, am on the Leadership team of Rector's Guild, and most recently became co-leader of the Grace Church Pride Committee with Olwen. This newly formed group has active membership from both people identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community and Allies, with many creative ideas coming from those who identify as Allies.

--Continued

--Continued

Having grown up Roman Catholic, I appreciate the familiarity of the Sunday services, while welcoming the progressive attitudes and values of the congregation and clergy. The music is beautiful and the historic building is iconic. My wife and I have found our home at Grace Episcopal. It is my honor to serve on the Vestry and contribute my unique perspective to the leadership team.



Kenn JeSchonek - 2026

I've been attending Grace since 1978. I also met my wife, Gwen, at Grace and we were married in 1978. I've been on Vestry several times, I've been on the finance committee, the Grace Fund board, and the Development Fund Trust (each several times). I volunteer for the food pantry three times a week. I've been an acolyte, an usher, a Sunday school teacher, was Stewardship chair for several years, and take photos for Grace Presents, grant proposals, and the parish website. You might say that I've seen it all and done it all... several times. Being on the Vestry is an honor and a privilege, in the making of Grace Church's past, present and future.



Rob Lemanske, M.D. - 2026

I am currently a tenured professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, where I served as a tenured faculty member for over 35 years. Pertinent to this position I have served in various leadership positions including being the head of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology within the Medical School; Chair of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology; President of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; President of the Friends of the Overture Concert Organ (affiliate of the Madison Symphony Orchestra); Chair of the Welcoming Committee of Grace Episcopal Church (Madison); an Usher for Grace Church; and a member of the Grace Choir.



John Andrews - Clerk of the Vestry

I was raised in the Anglican Church of Canada. I met my wife, Sally, as a graduate student in California. We were married there in 1976 and moved to Wisconsin, where I had been offered a faculty position in the Plant Pathology Department at UW-Madison. I retired in 2011, about the time that we joined Grace Church. Since then we have served the parish in various ways.



Tom Felhofer - Treasurer

THE KIDS CORNER

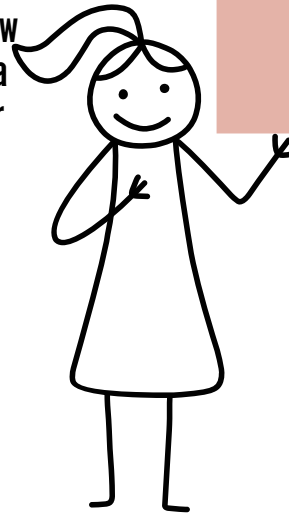
This is a place for kids and by kids. We want to know what you've been up to, a joke you think is funny, a poem you've written, or something you think other people should know. All submissions welcome!

What do you get when you milk a cow in Alaska?

Snow

What do you call a huge pile of cats?

A meow-ntain!



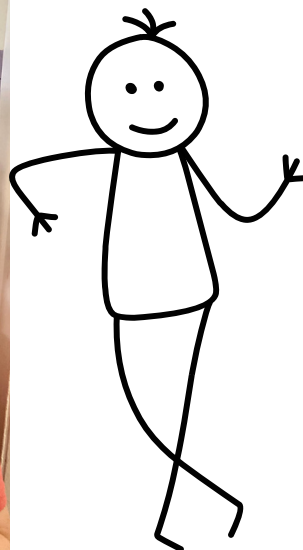
KIDS YOU SHOULD KNOW



HARRY 5TH GRADE

A POEM ABOUT SUNDAYS

Sitting in a chair waiting for the little kids to be done in the sand pit.
Listening to my mom talking about saints.
And sometimes we use paints.
It seems like every Sunday someone new walks through that door.
But every Sunday we all come back wanting more.
And that is how we all know it's legit.



PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 1929-1968

He experienced racial prejudice from the time he was very young, which inspired him to dedicate his life to achieving equality and justice for Americans of all colors. King believed that peaceful refusal to obey unjust law was the best way to bring about social change. He was assassinated because he challenged the status quo.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Parish Life committee invites your ideas for events in 2024

The Parish Life committee had a big year in 2023, hosting 15 fun events to strengthen community within the parish. Now it's time to share your ideas for events in 2024! Contact a member of the Parish Life committee before January 7 to share your ideas; the committee meets that day to plan the events for 2024. Your Parish Life committee is: [Kara Pagano](#) (chair), Olwen Hansen-Blake (Pride committee liaison), Nellie Laughlin, Amy Robinson, and Pat Werk.

The Parish Life Committee aims to strengthen community within the church, build relationships and friendships, bring us out of isolation, and especially to have fun! The committee hosts at least one event per month, aiming for a variety of locations and types of activities, most of them free or minimal cost. Your suggestions last year included the Mad City Ski Show on Lake Monona, the Phillis Wheatley library exhibit tour, and the Trick or Trot Run/Walk for GSAFE.

We're a fun committee! Do you want to join us? We are looking for new committee members to bring creative and inclusive ideas and work together to implement them. We are also looking for someone to help keep us organized. Happy New Year!



Choir Appreciation Banquet

Here at Grace Episcopal Church, we are blessed with extraordinary musical talent. The Chancel Choir, along with Director of Music, Berkley Guse, and Organist, Mark Brampton Smith, fill our souls with musical prayer. Each year, from September through May, we have the joy of listening to their harmonies. Whether it's during the regular Sunday service or for special liturgical occasions, the Nave is filled with choral and solo offerings. The time and effort put forth behind the scenes is something we in the congregation aren't privy to. From selection of Sunday hymns and Choir songs, to multiple rehearsals each week, hours of work go into each seemingly effortless Sunday service. It is truly an act of devotion and service to our Church and God. Once a year, our congregation celebrates the choir and music department with a special recognition luncheon. The entire congregation is invited to honor our choir, along with Berkley and Mark. We hope you can all mark your calendars, and join us on February 11th in Vilas Hall after the 10:00 service, to make the 2024 celebration of our Choir truly special. Watch for more information in upcoming Grace Notes and Service Bulletins.

-Shelley Hansen-Blake