

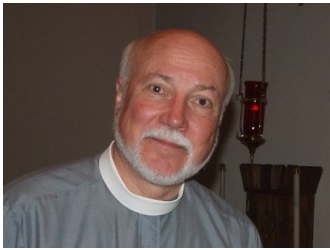
Grace Notes

the official newsletter of
Grace Episcopal Church
150 Chapel St. Norwood, MA



From the Rector's Desk

Summer Read July – August 2022



I just finished reading *Revelations* by Mary Sharratt (2021), a book I would highly recommend. The publisher's summary describes it as follows:

*Bishop's Lynn, England, 1413. At the age of forty, Margery Kempe has nearly died giving birth to her fourteenth child. Fearing that another pregnancy might kill her, she makes a vow of celibacy, but she can't trust her husband to keep his end of the bargain. Desperate for counsel, she visits the famous anchoress Dame Julian of Norwich. Pouring out her heart, Margery confesses that she has been haunted by religious visions. Julian then offers up a confession of her own: she has written a secret, radical book about her own visions, *Revelations of Divine Love*. Nearing the end of her life and fearing Church authorities, Julian entrusts her precious book to Margery, who sets off the adventure of a lifetime to secretly spread Julian's words. Mary Sharratt vividly brings the medieval past to life as Margery blazes her trail across Europe and the Near East, finding her unique spiritual path and vocation. It's not in a cloistered cell like Julian, but in the full bustle of worldly existence with all its wonders and perils.*

What stopped me short is that all of this is based on facts and recently rediscovered medieval texts. Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* was nearly lost for 500 years and was only "discovered" by the reading public in a 1901 translation of its Middle English text. It is the first book written in English, and it was written by a woman.

Margery Kempe was illiterate, but spurred on by Julian's *Revelations*, Margery dictated the first autobiography in English in the 1420's. It too was largely lost until its discovery and publication 500 years later in 1934 when found by chance in the private library of a British noble family.

For these reasons alone, you should rush to get a copy or listen to *Revelations* as an audiobook to rediscover the life and times of Margery and Julian. However, consider that all these experiences took place during the Black Death which was far more lethal as a disease than COVID, and, at the same time, knowing that discovery that a woman could read or write in English about the Bible was tantamount to being labeled as a heretic and burned at the stake. Thus, this book is compelling, and suspenseful.

BUT bringing this novel into our world of Norwood in 2022 in a world beset

- by COVID,
- by dramatic domestic political divides,
- by archaic aggression of a major military power on a peaceful neighbor,
- by legions of vulnerable immigrants from gang-torn countries to our south,
- by escalating prices of essentials of gas and groceries, and
- by climate change turning our temperatures and sea levels *topsy-turvy*,

we, LIKE MARGERY, feel adrift from a loving God who protects and treasures us.

Yet, as I read the book, what Margery in her despair and danger fails to notice are all the small, non-dramatic acts of kindness and protection that God showers upon her at almost every turn.

For example, at one point, she is taken into custody as a heretic for preaching of God's universal love—this is forbidden because she is a woman. Yet the lowly jailor who takes her into custody surreptitiously works to prevent her from being thrown in with the male ruffians in the jail, and brings her to his own house, in the charge of his wife, safe in the attic of their home.

At point she declares God is silent and distant and uncaring, yet, I say, she misses the small, undramatic but important miracles that God is offering her minute by minute.

I think we too in 2022 are missing the small, undramatic, important miracles that God is offering us minute by minute in our life as a parish. Consider that we lost beloved Patty Begin as our parish secretary because she wanted to retire, and yet we've been gifted with Heather Belden with her new gifts of internet design, database management, and a calling for pastoral service. Consider we lost beloved organist and choir director, Paula King, who is moving with her family to the Cape and found a lovely expanded new position in a church there as organist and choir director. And yet it looks like we have found a very talented choir director, singer, and organist for our parish. Even consider that our riding lawn mower is dangerously shaking and rattling along, and, at this very moment, one of our parishioners is offering up a riding mower from her parents who no longer can mow lawns. Margery in the 1400s, and we in the 2020s feel adrift and alone from God's presence as both she and we look for dramatic Burning Bushes, dramatic visible tongues of fire descending on us, for earthquakes and hurricane winds to reveal God's presence.

Yet what she missed in the 1400s, and what I pray we will not miss in the 2020s is the presence of God in the hands, hearts, and eyes of those around us in these turbulent times. The hands, hearts, and eyes of those around us who bring God to bear in our minute by minute, day by day trials and tribulations.

Perhaps Julian of Norwich said it best 500 years ago:

- "If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."
- "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

Amen

Worship



Worship Schedule for the Summer

*Join us now through Labor
Day Weekend for our one
service each Sunday,
celebrated at 9:00 a.m.*

Reading this newsletter online? Click
on the readings below and be linked
directly to the passage.

July Scripture Readings

July 3

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-9

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 17

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

July 24

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

July 31

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-11

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

August Scripture Readings

August 7

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

August 14

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

August 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

August 28

Sirach 10:12-18

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

IN PRAYER



God of inexhaustible strength and limitless energy, our refuge, strength and very present help in trouble: Help us wait patiently for you to come to renew our strength, so that we will mount up with wings to soar like eagles, riding on the undercurrents of the wind of your Spirit.

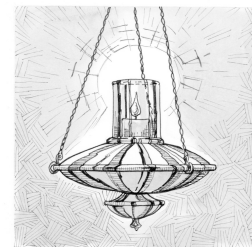
Please keep in your prayers...

- As summer approaches, nourish growth in my heart as you do crops in fields and produce in gardens this time of year. *Amen.*
- A renewed trust in God by each of us touched in so many ways by the ongoing pandemic.
- A cessation of Russia's war against Ukraine and strength for those who endure its length.
- This Independence Day; God of freedom, I pray for the time when all "earth and heaven [will] ring ... with the harmonies of liberty" (James W. Johnson)
- Those on our parish prayer list: A.J., Andrea, Jose, Olivia, Juliana, Tim, Jem Dearbin, Carolyn Escher, Arlene Gemba, Shane Gibson, Tara Guschov, Barbara Hagberg, LaJuana Hobbs, Betsy Hornbuckle, James Jarrell, Harry King, John King, Madeleine King, Matt Mackinnon, Roberta McCormack, Madeleine Merifield, Carol Misner, Kevin Most, Melanie Paulson, Allen Peeler, Marcia Regner, Marcia Regner, Ralph Regner, Emily Rennie, Karen Rennie, Carol Ringler, Manny Sanchez, John Stanley, Geoffrey & Valerie Stone, Sherry Vincent, Joseph Warren, John Whitcomb, Linda Wiedmann, Pauline Wilhite and Ann; Trish & John Wood, and for those being prayed for on the Grace Church Prayer Line.
- All those who have passed into God's eternal rest.



Sanctuary Candle

The sanctuary candle burns continuously 24 hours a day, 365 days a year representing the presence of the Lord. All are welcome to make an offering in memory of a love done. The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board by the church offices. Suggested donation is \$6.00. Checks made payable to St. Faith's Altar Guild can be placed in the alms basket, or slipped under the office door.



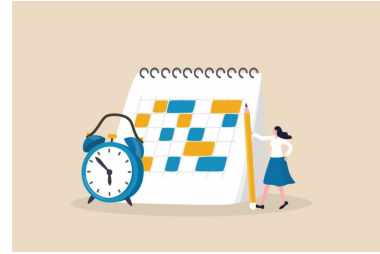
Healing Prayers by Phone

Anyone feeling a need for a healing prayer may call at any time. Contact Cathy Noble (781-344-1237), Deb Morton (781-769-4044), or Carol Maloof (781-551-0690).

On the Calendar

Important Dates to Remember

July 4: Independence Day
July 22: B-SAFE Fieldtrip
August 14: Vestry Meeting @ 7pm
August 14: Sept. Grace Notes Deadline



Freedom

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.
Or we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way —
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.
But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!

One Nation Under God



Anniversaries

7/06 Allen & Linda Peeler
7/29 Michael & Sharon LeBlanc

Birthdays

7/01 Edmond Gosselin
7/02 Bryan Falcone
7/07 Matt Bravo
7/07 Sue Breen
7/08 Shannon McGettigan
7/11 Brandon Orozco
7/17 Ellana Baguma
7/19 Olivia Bedard
7/20 Cori Loescher
7/20 John McTeague
7/20 Heather Wisheart
7/27 Leighton Falcone
7/29 Cristy Dearbin



Anniversaries

8/20 John & Sarah Brockmann

Birthdays

8/01 August Loescher
8/02 Marsha McGettigan
8/03 Dave Escher
8/05 Pearl Mohamed
8/08 Kallista Jordan
8/14 Sharon Bravo
8/14 Liz Pierce
8/17 Luke Fleming
8/19 Ani Jordan
8/23 Charlotte Mathews
8/26 Allen Peeler
8/26 Anna Sangalang
8/27 Debbie Nedder
8/28 Fran Mannino
8/29 Katherine Wharton



B-SAFE 2022 is just around the corner!

Another B-SAFE program is just around the corner! For those who are new to the program, B-SAFE is a summer day camp program for inner city children. This is their 23rd year and Grace's 16th year of involvement!!! The program runs for four weeks in a day-camp format and includes academics, technology classes, sports, and lots of field trips. The reading, writing and math curricula are specially designed to meet the needs of the students and help youth to maintain and build their skills so they are more prepared for the classroom in September. The goals of the program are for children to feel safe physically, emotionally and spiritually; feel big by trying new things and advancing their academic skills; and feel connected by building relationships with their peers and caring adults. Through shared activities, the camp works to create relationships across neighborhoods to decrease violence in the city. The B-SAFE program initially began at St. Stephen's in South Boston and their youth programs now run throughout the year. Check out all their youth programs at <http://www.ssypboston.org/>.

For the third year, due to the Covid pandemic, B-SAFE will look different. We will again partner with Church of the Holy Spirit but will participate only in a fun-filled Friday field trip planned for July 22. The location of the field trip is not yet finalized but we will need volunteers to help throughout the day. We'll keep you posted when details are available. And instead of providing meals for the campers on Monday and Wednesday we will be supplying bags of needed groceries (B-LOVE bags). Food items can be donated (list to be provided in mid-June) or monetary donations to help fill the bags and to help pay for the field trip and bus expenses. And once we have everything donated/purchased we'll need helpers to assemble the bags.

Everyone can help in a number of ways.

- We need volunteers for Friday, July 22. No experience necessary! More information on the Friday field trip will be provided soon.
- You can donate food items (a list of items needed will be posted soon).
- We will need help in assembling the food bags.
- Most importantly we need your financial support. If you can support a child (or two!) for \$25 (or any amount you can spare) please make a check payable to Grace Church with B-Safe in the memo line.
- Our fundraising will again include a variety of raffles! Each raffle ticket is \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. Raffle ticket sales will continue through mid-July. Our raffle motto is "buy many and buy often!" There will be something for everyone to take a chance on!

As always, we appreciate everyone's support for this outreach program. Any questions can be directed to Debbie Terry at dterry@ifb.org.

B-SAFE volunteer form

Can You Help Keep a Child Safe This Summer?

I Commit!

_____ To volunteer for a day, Friday, July 22

_____ To donate food items (list of needed items to be determined)

_____ To help assemble food bags

_____ To sponsor a child for \$25

(make checks payable to Grace Church with memo B-SAFE)

Name _____

Phone/email _____

Complete and return to Deb Terry via email dterry@ifb.org or place in her mail slot at church



Announcements

Sunday July 10 | Sunken Garden

We will be holding an outdoor service on Sunday, July 10 in the shade of the Sunken Garden. Please bring a chair from home if you are able. Remember to arrive a few minutes early to find a spot and set up your chairs



Update on masks in Church

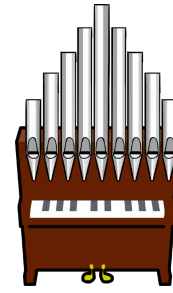
Our Episcopal diocese has indicated masks are now optional in church.

There will be three pews at the back of the church (clock side) marked off for those who want to socially distance from others. Within these specially marked pews, masks will be required. All others are welcome to wear a mask, or not, and sit in unmarked pews. We will continue to wave at the Peace and use our own cups for communion.

Please speak to Katherine or Father John if you have questions or concerns.

Jooхва Park

Help us in welcoming Jooхва Park as our organist for the summer months. Jooхва Park serves as an organist and choir director at First Parish of UU church in Billerica. She gives piano lessons at Boston Mentors Music in Wellesley Hills and lives with her husband and two children in Wellesley. Jooхва came from Korea to study film music at Berklee College of Music. Other than teaching, she is an active accompanist for choirs, singers and instrumentalists. She studied in the Dalcroze Eurhythmics graduate program at Longy School of Music of Bard College. We are happy she is here and blessed to have music over the summer!



Donation Statements

I recently sent out donation statements which cover January 1st through May 31st. It's my habit to send statements two or three times a year, but the information is available to you any time you wish. You have only to ask. Karen Stanley and I record your contributions, and we encourage and welcome any questions you may have. You can contact either of us directly, or speak to Heather in the office and she'll pass the question on to us.

Thank you for your generous support.

Carolyn Escher
Assistant Treasurer

Calling all families!

Please join us at the Sunday morning services for "Bible Stories & Crafts for Kids" program.

Your children will begin the Service with you for the Opening Hymn and Acclamation. The kids and adult volunteers will be dismissed to the Sunday School Room in the undercroft for a Bible story that corresponds to the Gospel you will hear at Service. Then they will work on a craft that is inspired by the story and will return before Communion.

This is a drop-in program; no registration is needed.

The program will last 12 weeks, ending on August 28th (no program on July 3rd).



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