

SUMMER 2022

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GRACE NOTES

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LIKE THE SUNFLOWER, WE LIFT OUR FACES TO SEE GOD

I've always liked sunflowers. I like their bright yellow petals contrasted by their dark middle circles, and the way they grow tall and sturdy. But mainly I like the way they follow the sun every day (hence the name), turning their faces to the light as it moves across the sky. They start each day facing east, move west through the hours, then turn back east each night. What if we did that, turning our faces to God every morning, following Him throughout the day, then repeating it the next day. And the next. What would He reveal to us if we kept our eyes on Him? What would we learn? How would we change? Might be worth a try to find out. Enjoy the summer, especially the sunflowers. -ML Ball

SUMMERTIME AND THE CHURCH IS...BUSY?

BY THE REV. DR. MATTHEW CALKINS



Well, the property committee anyway. A number of projects are in the works. The three wood shingled buildings on our campus—rectory, office building and parish hall—will be painted. They need it; the last time was in the nineties when they were re-shingled as part a major capital improvement program.

We will also be doing safety improvements to the entrances of the parish hall—removing a decayed short wall around the existing handicap access ramp and replacing it with a simpler rail, thus widening the ramp. We will also be adding a level to the concrete threshold at the main door, eliminating a small step down.

This will improve the ease and safety of this entrance.

Eventually we may want to do more substantial improvements in this area: creating a new ramp and main entrance, and to this end we have asked Sloan Architects to develop possible plans. But these will wait until it is time—a not too distant time—when we redo the parking lot and other capital improvements projects.

Maintaining and improving our precious legacy of buildings includes the art works and furniture within the sanctuary. In the process of preparing to restore and re-orient the stained glass window on the south face of the church facing Franklin Avenue—a window hidden behind the organ—we are discovering that we have a masterpiece of American stained glass art. Please read the description of it in this newsletter. A full article that also talks about the patrons—the Wing family—and the artists—Maitland Armstrong and his daughter Helen—and the history and future of the window will be posted on our website.

Both projects require substantial expenditures. Fortunately, thanks to grants from the Tribute Garden and the Diocese of New York property support fund, we have enough in hand to do the painting. We will need to raise about \$35,000 more for the window in addition to current memorial funds and two grants already received. But I think this money very well spent indeed. We have a gracious campus, a repository of beautiful and historically significant stained glass, a magnificent organ, and a history of strong local support. In turn, we have always contributed mightily to the welfare and beauty of our village and wider community. We are in a web of mutual care, called always toward a future in which we build beloved community after the model of Jesus and the kingdom of heaven. Part of that is opening our doors with gracious hospitality and worshipping in the beauty of holiness.

Have a good summer! And don't forget to also worship the God who created the beauty of nature and that which is good and true in all things. Praise God and follow Jesus and love your neighbor. The world will be a better place if you do (and it could use a little improvement, no?).

I will be here through mid-August and then on vacation for two weeks, after which I will be on sabbatical through the end of Pentecost. I'll be back in church for the first Advent after Thanksgiving. Thank you all for supporting the Vestry and me and especially the Rev. Alison Quin who will be priest-in-charge in my absence. And please continue to support this wonderful church with an annual pledge or regular giving. Our mission and ministry is strong but depends on you.

See you on Sunday, Matt+

**"ISAIAH 61:3 FITS JOHN BYRON PERFECTLY:
'THEY SHALL BE CALLED OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.'
— FATHER MATT**



John and fiancée Pat Pinkney



John Byron, Diana Bellissimo, Barbara Rudy, Lori Morritt,
Robin Capers, Pam Freeman, Karen Quinn

Some people go to church, sing the hymns, say the prayers, shake hands with the preacher on their way out, and head home. Not so with John Byron, our Grace Honoree at this year's Golf and Benefit Gala.

In quiet, subtle ways, John, 95 and counting, has made his presence known at Grace Church for decades, leading, supporting, pitching in, sustaining, being faithful.

Born and raised in Queens, John joined an Episcopal church there and has been a faithful Episcopalian ever since. Toward the end of WWII, he entered the U.S. Navy, eventually serving through 1952 and the Korean War. He then joined the NYC Police Department, serving for 30+ years.

The famous (infamous) "John story" involves his catching a thief who was in the process of making off with \$175,000 in jewels stolen from Macy's. John apprehended the criminal who then fired a gun at him at point blank range. The gun misfired, shattering a storefront window and narrowly missing John. A real-life hero!

As a police sergeant in NYC, John acquired the nickname Sergeant No (still on his license plate). He was in charge of disbursing supplies and became quite well-known for denying most requests.

John also was for many years President of the St. George's Association, a revered Protestant police association of over 4000 members.

After retirement, John moved up to Dutchess County (his son Keith was already living here). He has been a member of Grace since the 1990s, serving on the vestry, being a steady guiding hand, and frequently doing repairs and carpentry work—on a ladder in his late 80s.

According to Pam Freeman: "John was instrumental in selling mulligans and raffle tickets at the golf tournaments for the last 15 years! We could not have done it without him."

Grace Church is blessed to have John Byron among us, and we are thrilled to honor him this year at our benefit. An oak of righteousness indeed. Congratulations John!

MARCH AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE AT THE FOUNTAINS



Residents of The Fountains senior living facility in Millbrook marched against gun violence on June 10th in a procession from the Inn at The Fountains to the Chapel of the Children, built back when The Fountains was the home of Greer School, an Episcopal boarding school for disadvantaged children.

The walk echoed similar protests elsewhere organized by Grandparents Against Gun Violence. Fountains resident Barbara Mannelli contacted Fr Calkins to plan the walk, together with The Fountains Community Life director Lisa Rieckerman and Assistant director Donna Hansen. Roughly thirty seniors, caregivers and two dogs (Zoe was one) turned out and made the short walk, followed by prayers and ringing of the chapel bell, expressing their deep concern and distress over recent incidents of mass shootings, especially the school shooting in Uvalde and the racially motivated killings in Buffalo.

May God hear us, may changes come.

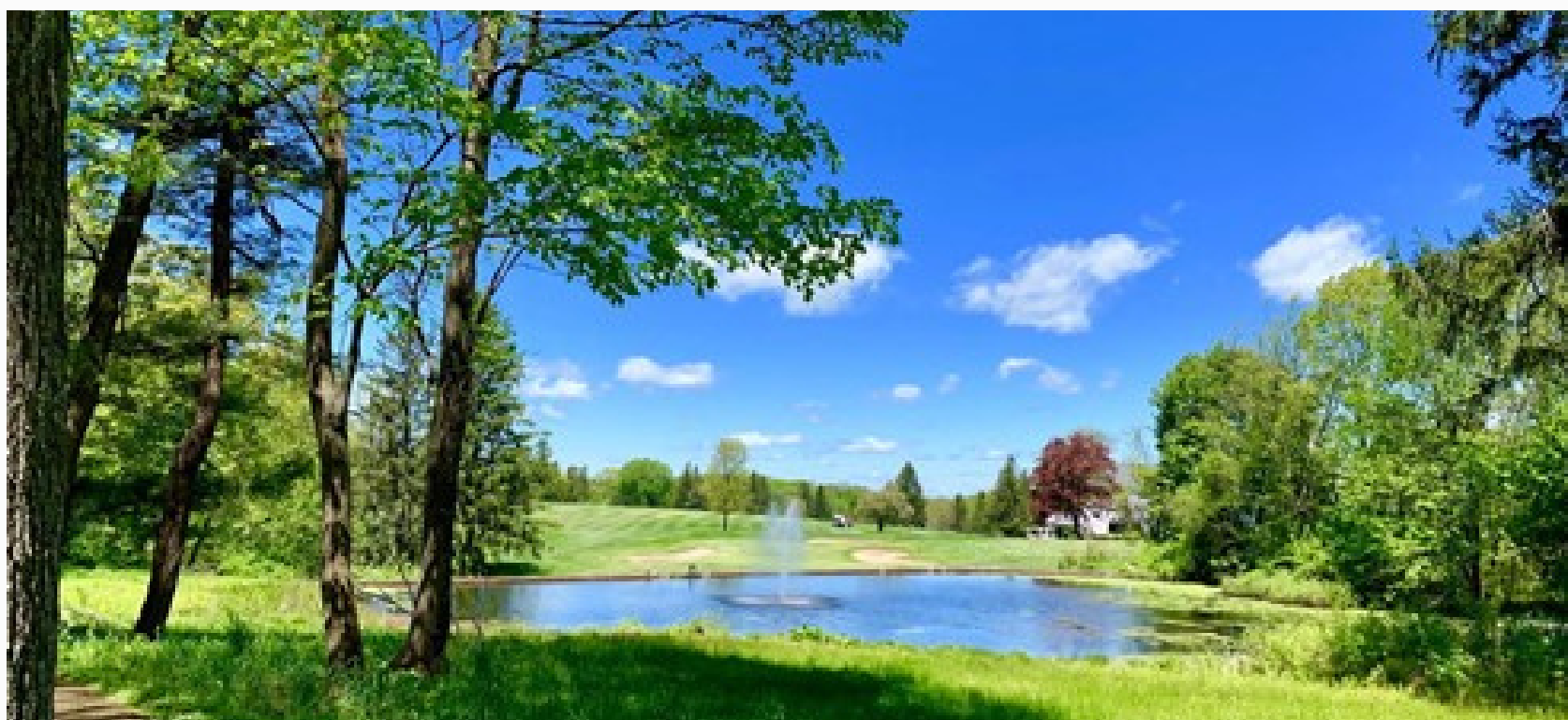
-Fr Matt+

HIDDEN FOR DECADES, THE RESURRECTION WINDOW WILL SOON HAVE NEW LIFE



Did you know we have a masterpiece in our midst? Hidden since 1968 by the organ (itself a masterpiece), the four-panel stained glass Resurrection Window will soon be gloriously resurrected. Created by Maitland Armstrong in 1912, the window is a memorial to successful businessman and devout churchman John Daniel Wing and his wife Adelaide Warner Hinman. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" reads the inscription at the bottom, Jesus's benediction to his disciples before his death. After meticulous restoration (it's 110 years old, after all), the window will be repositioned to face Franklin Street and lit from behind for all who pass by to admire, gazing up in wonder. For the complete story of this stunning work of art and how you can help in the effort, go to www.gracemillbrook.org and click on the Resurrection Window article.

GRACE GOLF & DINNER BENEFIT AT QUAKER HILL COUNTRY CLUB



It's that wonderful time of year again...the Grace Millbrook Golf and Dinner Benefit is almost here! This year, the gala will not only feature an exciting 18 holes of golf at a new venue, Quaker Hill Country Club in Pawling, plus lunch, cocktails, dinner and silent auction, but for the first time ever...croquet! Yes! Grab a mallet and get cracking.

Now in its 15th year, the annual benefit is Grace Church's largest fundraiser, supporting the church and its many community outreach programs serving children, young adults, seniors, immigrants, and those in our community who need a voice. It takes place Monday, August 15th at the historic Quaker Hill Country Club, one of the top golf courses in America and founded by film maker and radio announcer Lowell Thomas. Dinner will be in the clubhouse, once used by Thomas as a broadcast studio and film theater.

Prices:

Golf and lunch: \$145

Golf, lunch, cocktails, dinner and silent auction: \$195

Cocktails, dinner and silent auction: \$125

Croquet, cocktails, dinner and silent auction: \$155

Croquet only (ages 12+): \$30

Our Community Honoree this year is Innisfree Garden, the 185-acre public garden in Millbrook listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Innisfree has always had a special relationship with Grace Church, generously hosting the Interfaith Blessing of Our Sacred Places service, held this year in May.

Our Grace Honoree is John Byron (aka Sergeant No), long-time Grace Church member, naval officer, policeman, St George's Association president, and overall jack-of-all-trades church repairman.

For more information and to register, call 845-677-3064, email office@gracemillbrook.org or visit the church website, www.gracemillbrook.org.

And most importantly, let's all thank co-chairs Pam Freeman and Lynda Boissey for their herculean efforts putting together this year's event. They, and Grace Golf, mean so much to all of us!

GRACE YEAR FELLOWS WILL SOON DEPART



It is hard to believe it is time to say farewell to this year's Grace Year fellows as the program year ends and they move on to the next phase of their lives. It has been a joy getting to know Adelle Dennis, John Gehman, Thomas Gould and Kristin Perkins, and watching them grow in faith, leadership and community building.

Individually and as a cohort, they have contributed so much to Grace Church as well as the wider community. Their thoughtful participation added to adult education and bible study. They offered their gifts in worship in many ways. They were faithful in assisting with many parish events. Above all, their energy and enthusiasm and new ideas were a great gift.

In the greater community, the fellows served at Grace Immigrant Outreach, EPIC, Hudson River Housing, the Creation Care Committee of the Diocese of New York, Millbrook Library and Cardinal Hayes.

Even in their last month, the fellows have offered their gifts to help strengthen the church and the Grace Year program. They helped plan and participated in a fundraiser on June 18th, at which they shared their experiences at Grace Year.

Adelle has continued to spearhead the Faith and Fellowship group each Thursday evening to enable people to gather informally and wrestle with questions of faith. Thomas is working on a plan to convert the vicarage heating and hot water to more energy efficient systems in the future which will reduce our carbon footprint. He is also creating an inventory of what items are in the vicarage to help future fellows plan what they need to bring. John has put together bibliographies on various topics that will enrich our curriculum. Kristin, who will serve as a part time assistant program director next year, has helped interview potential fellows as well as revamped the curriculum for next year.

I am filled with gratitude for this year's cohort and I know I am not alone in saying that I will miss them. Adelle is moving to New Haven and looking for a job as she awaits the decision on postulancy (the first step toward ordained ministry) from her diocese (Upper South Carolina). John will be starting the M.Div. program at Harvard in the fall. Thomas is applying for jobs, and is open to a move to the West Coast.

May God bless them as they step into the future that awaits them. May they continue to grow in faith, hope and love, and may God use their gifts to bring about a more just and peaceful world.

Come back anytime and visit!

-Rev. Alison Quin

FAREWELL TO DEBORAH COCONIS, DIRECTOR OF MILLBROOK COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL



Staff, family members and siblings of the preschoolers gathered on the playground to celebrate the end of the school year and moving on. We treated the informal ceremony like one of our everyday circle times: singing, a story, the pledge of allegiance, and thoughtful words from Father Matt and Miss Deborah. Afterwards, families socialized and enjoyed refreshments from an ice cream truck.

It has been an honor and a comfort to work at our beautiful preschool for the past 14 years. The friendship of the staff and the support of the Grace Church community have enriched my life personally. I know wherever I go, Grace Church will always feel like home.

-Deborah Coconis

A POEM BY DOROTHY KNAPP



Be My Guest
A Mother's Musings

I know that you live here
I know that you are family
But I do not own you.
I have only been loaned you.
You came to me
From God above
Because of love.
I am commissioned
To nurture you in the Lord
To teach you God's Holy Word
To quick you in the way
That you should go.
That I do not know.

Give me some clues
To help me choose
The way and the ways
That are right for you.
We belong to each other
But we are separate.
We have different paths to follow.
Let us respect each other
Nor take each other for granted.
So be my guest
and let me rest
Knowing who you are
And who I am
In God.

FATHER MATT TAKING A SABBATICAL



From September through Thanksgiving, Father Matt will be on sabbatical and Rev. Alison Quin will be priest-in-charge (though Matt assures us he'll keep in touch). A recipient of a clergy grant from the Lilly Endowment, Matt and his wife Mary will visit Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam and Singapore, returning to the places where he lived as a young man studying Chinese. Mary will be studying Asian art. Bon voyage Matt and Mary!

DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH!

Although it's summertime, bills still need to be paid and Grace Church is no exception. Please remember to support our church and its many programs and obligations by keeping up with your pledge or even making a special donation. Thank you!!



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