

A Grace Note from the Rector  
December 21, 2023

Dear Ones,

Many of you saw in yesterday's paper the obituary for **Sara Anderson**, who died on Sunday at the age of 96, after an extended illness. I spoke on the phone yesterday to her son, Trygve who lives in Florida, to express our condolences and ask if there were plans for any services here in Indiana. During that conversation, I learned another piece of sad news. His sister, **Kirsten Wilson**, died on August 21, in Atlanta. Given the amount of loss and the fact that the families are all in the South, they discussed the situation and do not plan a return to Muncie for a service. I understand their decision completely.

At the same time, I think it is important to us at Grace to remember the life and death of someone who was such an important part of the life of this place. So, we will have a service in the New Year to give God thanks for the life of Sara Anderson. If you are interested in helping me to put that service together, please get in touch with me. Please also keep the extended families of Sara and Kirsten in your prayers. *May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

#### CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24	9:30am	Holy Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24	<b>5:30pm</b>	Lessons & Carols followed by Holy Eucharist <i>In-person only</i>
Monday, December 25	<b>10:00am</b>	Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day <i>In-person only</i>
Wednesday, December 27	Noon	Midweek Eucharist: St. John's Day <i>In-person only</i>
Sunday, December 31	9:30am	Holy Eucharist: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas
Wednesday, January 3		<b>No Noon Eucharist</b> this week
Sunday, January 7	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word – Jim Jeffery, <i>presiding</i> Mike Ashley, <i>preaching</i>

#### A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Reverend Father Paul and Beloved Members of Grace Episcopal Church,

I am deeply touched and immensely grateful for the beautiful gesture of kindness and support extended to me on the occasion of my graduation. Your thoughtful gift of a cake, gifts, and the congratulatory cards truly filled my heart with joy and gratitude. I am humbled by the love and blessings showered upon me by this wonderful congregation.

Please accept my sincerest thanks for your generosity, prayers, and unwavering support. I am profoundly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring community.

With deepest gratitude and warm regards,

*David Reed Akolgo*

## GATHERING GRACE & A BETTER WAY

**THANK YOU ALL** for your tremendous generosity to our friends and neighbors at A Better Way and Gathering Grace. You have brought warmth and joy to many lives. **Merry Christmas!**

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

**Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese. **Personal Care Items:** Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Jim Connolly** (December 21)

**Lynn Beach** (December 24)

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## HOLIDAY VIEWING

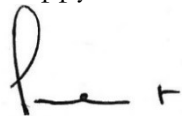
Here are two things you might enjoy watching in the next week. The first is a gift from The General Theological Seminary in New York. Available on the 24<sup>th</sup>, **Mr. Moore's Gift**, tells the story of how author and theologian Clement Clarke Moore came to write his poem, *A Visit From St. Nicholas*, commonly known as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. First published anonymously in the *Troy Sentinel* newspaper on December 23rd, 1823, the poem has since become a Christmas classic. But Mr. Moore did more than simply enchant generations of children with a beloved Christmas poem, he also gifted much of his land to The General Theological Seminary. The link is here:

<https://www.gts.edu/mrmooresgift>

The second is one of my favorites, the 1945 short black and white film ***Star in the Night***, which locates the Nativity story in the western United States. The YouTube link is:

<https://youtu.be/0JGszZ7AakE?si=-BQ5NSpPFaYZ2qzF>

Happy almost Christmas,



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