

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 3
 March 2022

Grace Notes is the monthly newsletter for Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill. If you would like to contribute an article or comment, please reach out to a member of the Grace Notes committee: Carol Martinez and Peggy Roberts. *It is the Mission of Grace Episcopal Church to bring glory to God, build the spirituality of our people, and bring Christ to our community.*

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Mon.	1:00 p.m.	Creative Mondays <i>2nd & 4th Mondays</i>
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist
Wed.	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Father Joe, <i>Office Hours</i>
Thurs.	9:00 a.m.	Crochet Group <i>Faith Hall</i>

Newsletter Articles

Vicar's Vagaries	Pg. 1-2
Prayer for Ukraine	Pg. 3
A Very Nice Thank You	Pg. 3
Bringing Back Our Alleluias	Pg. 3
Easter Lilies to Blossom	Pg. 3
More Flowers for Easter	Pg. 4
2022 Stewardship Continues	Pg. 4
Creative Mondays	Pg. 4
Opportunities at The Well	Pg. 4
Technical Updates	Pg. 4
Grace Finances for January	Pg. 4
February Mission Council	Pg. 5

Events and Dates of Notes

Here are just some of the dates to note on the church calendar. Information on activities and programs at Grace will be sent to you via email and Facebook.

Mar. 25	The Feast of the Annunciation
Mar. 27	Blessing of food donations to The Well
April 10	Sunday of Passion: Palm Sunday
April 14	Maundy Thursday
April 15	Good Friday
April 16	Holy Saturday
April 17	Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day
April 24	Blessing of food donations to The Well
April 25	Saint Mark the Evangelist

Vicar's Vagaries

Lent & Holy Week

As of March 15, we are in the middle of Lent. This is a good time to evaluate your Lenten rule. How does the way you are keeping Lent help you build habits of virtue? Lent can seem quite long as we go through this part of Lent, especially when the weather is cold and overcast outdoors. This is a good time to resolve to persevere in prayer, study, fasting, giving, and worshiping with others on Sundays and perhaps on Wednesdays at noon, if you are available. Trust in God and his love for you, and the benefit to you will be very great.

I have been thinking about what our lives and our Lenten discipline have to do with what is going on in the world. Our Lenten rule can appear insignificant when we consider that the people of Ukraine are victims of an unjustified attack by

Russians under the command of Vladimir Putin. Their homes, their country, their culture, their families, and their lives are being attacked and destroyed. What can your prayers do about that? How can your fast feed the hungry in Eastern Europe? And how can God let this happen, if he is all-powerful and a God of Love?

I can't answer all of these questions here, but surely sensitive people should be having such questions and feeling like something is very wrong with our world. On the most basic level, rebellion against God results in evil in the world. Sin is no private matter. It grows, spreads, and hurts other people. God doesn't magically make sin and its effects go away. Instead, he entered our world through Christ and he sends the followers of Christ and others who seek goodness and justice to work against evil and to work for mercy, healing, peace, respect for other people, freedom, and love among others in community. Jesus himself suffered the greatest injustice, and on the third day after his crucifixion, his resurrection overcame sin and death. Our hope is in him.

Let us pray for the people of Ukraine, for those who minister to the refugees, for the people of Russia that they may not obey orders to make war and to hide the truth from their people; and may he turn the heart of Putin away from pride, greed, and destruction of innocent people.

As the end of Lent approaches, we begin to prepare for **Holy Week**, when we walk with Christ through his passion and death that we may be with him in his resurrection victory.

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 10

Gather at 9:50 in the parking lot for the palm liturgy. Palms will be blessed and distributed, and we will process through the front door of the church into the nave while singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." We will read the Passion According to Luke in parts with all the congregation participating in the reading. This is the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week of the entire year.

Maundy Thursday, April 14

The Maundy Thursday service begins at 6:00 p.m. It is a regular celebration of the Eucharist until after communion, when the altar is stripped as the congregation reads a psalm. When we leave, the church is starkly empty.

Good Friday, April 15

Our Good Friday service begins at 3:00 p.m., the hour of the death of Jesus on the Friday before his resurrection. This is a most solemn but simple service, with no celebration of the Eucharist. The congregation reads the Passion According to John in dramatic form, with each person taking a part in the reading. A large cross is brought into the church, and everyone will have an opportunity to come up to the chancel steps and kiss the foot of the cross in what is known as the "veneration of the cross."

After this solemn service, we will gather in Faith Hall for hot cross buns and conversation. We begin to look forward to the resurrection.

Easter Day, April 17

At 10:00, we will have our grand Easter celebration, with the paschal candle, flowers, glorious hymns, white vestments, the Gloria, and many an "Alleluia!" Our current plan is that this will also be the occasion of the **baptism of Leon Mott**, son of Lauren and Robert Mott. All of this will happen at the 10:00 service.

All the services of Holy Week and Easter are part of **one liturgical event**. For a full experience of this holiest of weeks in the Church year, come not only to the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services, but also to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday so you will experience the full power of immersion in the prayer of the Church as we walk with Christ through his glorious passion, death, and resurrection.

Fr. Joe

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort
would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children
at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.
Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

A Very Nice Thank You

Members of the Grace Church Daughters of the King recently visited Bernice Haug at NHC in Columbia. The newsletter team thought it would be great to share the thank you note from Bernice. We salute the Daughters of the King for their work.

I would like to thank
the ladies of the church
that came to visit me.
You can't imagine how
happy your visit made me
feel. It was so nice to
see my church family. I
miss you so much. Not a
Sunday goes by when I'm
not thinking of how I
wish I could be there
in the church.
Thank you for all
the lovely gifts + most of
all thank you for being
you.
Bernice Haug

Bringing Back Our Alleluias!

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday, we no longer say the word "Alleluia" during the mass. The first time I learned of this tradition was in a Lutheran church: the children wrote Alleluia on dozens of slips of paper, put them in a five gallon bucket, and then dug a hole in the church yard where they buried the bucket.

On Easter morning they dug up the bucket and brought all the Alleluias into the sanctuary. I don't recall if they handed them out to everyone, but that would be a great thing to do!

I am looking forward to bringing the Alleluias back to our time of worship. During Lent, we have been practicing a time of prayer, reflection, and discipline. I am praying that we have learned new aspects of God's love for us, and new ways to show that love to the world.

I am looking forward to filling the church with a ringing shout of "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

Deanie Moore

Easter Lilies to Blossom

As we are in the Lenten season, we will all be preparing for the wonderful news that Easter brings. As usual we will decorate the sanctuary with beautiful lilies. The Altar Guild would appreciate contributions from anyone who would like to donate to the Easter Lily Fund. This contribution may be mailed directly to the church, given to a Mission Council Member, put in the Sunday offering or mailed to me, Linda Colmore, 1111 Moorseville Pike, Columbia, TN 38401, 615.404.7498, lcolmore@aol.com.

When writing a check for the Lily Fund, please note that information on the check. Also, if you are donating in memory of someone or something please inform either me or Karyl Chastain Beal by April 8, so she can place the information in the bulletin. Thank you.

Linda Colmore, Altar Guild

More Flowers for Easter

The Daughters of the King plan to decorate the handmade cross with flowers for Easter. If you

would like to contribute flowers or take part in the decoration of the cross, please reach out to Sheila Flynn, 615.957.9538, or a member of The Daughters.

2022 Stewardship Drive Continues

The Stewardship Drive for 2022 at Grace Episcopal Church continues. To date 26 households have pledged for a total of \$73,624. Our church is blessed to receive support from so many generous people. The church is still operating at a deficit budget for 2022 and we will have to dip into reserves to make it through the year.

Carol Martinez, Stewardship Chairman

Creative Mondays to Take Place in Faith Hall

Creative Mondays are a time when artists gather to make their creations and support one another's creative endeavors. Pat Mayo, an art teacher, serves as artistic consultant. Participant's crochet, knit, draw, and often share materials and ideas.

The event happens on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. in Faith Hall. Each artist brings his or her own supplies.

For more information on Creative Mondays, please reach out to Pat Mayo, 931.637.2228.

Opportunities at The Well

Traveling through Spring Hill with the usual stream of cars, your eye may be captured by another flood of cars turning east into The Well for much needed food for their families. The Well's heaviest days are Tuesdays and Saturdays. The Well serves approximately 500 area families twice monthly with donations from Grace Church, other local churches, organizations, and individuals.

Charles Cochran and John Harvey delivered our Grace donation of one hundred sixty-eight pounds of food for February. Foods needed this month are *oatmeal, condiments, tuna & canned chicken, canned pasta, canned peaches, boxed or bagged potatoes, flavored rice, meal extenders, and spaghetti sauce*. Plastic bottles are encouraged.

Our Well opportunities have grown from 178 families in 2019 to 507 in 2022, an increase of 184%. The Well can support a local family for \$1 a day with your aid.

Peggy Roberts

Technical Updates for Grace Church

As we turn the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic – now going into its third year – the focus of technology at Grace will begin to move in new directions. In the past month, we have changed some parts of our website relating to our social-distancing and face-covering policies. I encourage everyone to read these new documents, which can be found under the “News” tab of our website.

While we will continue to livestream morning services for the near future, it is my hope that we will expand our website to better reflect the life of our congregation. I have already brainstormed some potential content for our website (such as a page for our Creative Mondays artwork) and would very much like to hear your suggestions about what sort of things might be added to our site.

We also have been doing some continuing maintenance recently. Susan Browning and I met on Presidents Day to work with GoDaddy to fix some issues with email.

We will also need to train more volunteers and resolve technical debt in the next few months. I still need to document some of our processes, including writing detailed instructions for using the Mevo camera (which we use to stream our services, and can use for other events as well). If you would like to volunteer to help with the website or with live-streaming services, please contact me, and I will set up a training meeting.

James Dallas, Technical Support

Grace Finances for January 2022

January was a month with a positive balance for Grace Episcopal Church, with revenues exceeding expenses by \$2,089.84. Two actions helped grow the revenues: we started passing the plate again and there was increased in person attendance including many visitors. This financial information is the most current information that is available.

Finances for January are as follows:

Total Revenue:	\$14,538.00
Total Expenses:	\$12,448.16
Banking Balances:	
Checking balance:	\$2,940.56
Savings balance:	\$49,266.01

Breakdown of Savings:

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$49,266.01
Undesignated fund:	\$5,135.60
Interest earned:	\$0.41
Total Assets:	\$52,226.57

David Thomas, Treasurer

February Mission Council Meeting

The Grace Mission Council met on Feb. 16.

The Mission Council passed a motion designating that all of Fr. Joe’s compensation is categorized as a housing allowance.

The Mission Council elected Diann Schneider as Senior Warden for 2022.

The Mission Council voted that the loose offering of the last Sunday of each month and checks designated for the Vicar’s discretionary fund go to the discretionary fund.

Treasurer’s report, see article on page 3.

Vicar’s report - Fr. Joe noted the need for job descriptions for the mission council liaison jobs. Research is being done to locate the details. Fr. Joe and Diann Schneider attended The Diocesan Convention at St. George’s in Nashville. The Bishop’s visitation went well, and Peggy Roberts was received into the Episcopal Church.

Fr. Joe spoke about ways of helping visitors feel welcome and at home at Grace. This includes meeting them, answering questions, writing them, and inviting them to attend church events. Fr. spoke of everyone taking on responsibility for attending to the needs of visitors. A discussion was had about what to do for Lent.

Jr. Warden’s report - noted that the outside cleaning service has been canceled and all is going well.

The following items were reported by the Liaison Chairs:

Children’s Ministry and Christian Education - Lenten lessons and activities were distributed to the children of the church.

Community Outreach - Donations were sent to The Well.

Communications - The Facebook group is now active. Father Joe, Carol, and James Dallas are all posting items. Creative Mondays will resume

Monday, March 14. Pat Mayo is the chairperson of the meetings.

Congregational Life - Resuming the monthly luncheon for the ladies was discussed. Congregational life has posted a sign-up sheet for cleaning the church and Faith Hall.

If you have any questions about the Mission Council meeting, please speak to Fr. Joe or any member of the Council.

Carol Martinez, Acting Scribe
Father Joe

Clergy and Staff

The R. Rev. Dr. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop
The Rev. Joseph N. Davis, Vicar
Deanie Moore, Director of Music
Susan Browning, Financial Administrator

The Mission Council

Diann Schneider, Senior Warden
Susan Austin, Junior Warden
David Thomas, Treasurer
Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach
Carol Martinez, Communications
Will Pomeroy, Christian Education

You may contribute to Grace Church at this link or by using the code below.

[https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org/#giving,](https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org/#giving)

