

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 6
 June 2023

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.

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: Peggy Roberts, Carol Martinez, and LaRue Schmelzer.

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10 AM	Children's Church
Sun.	10 AM.	Facebook Live Service
Mon.	1:00 PM	Creative Mondays (2 nd &4 th Mondays)
Tues. & Fri.	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
Wed.	10:00 AM	DOK (2 nd & 4 th Wed.)
	Noon	Holy Eucharist
	11:00-3:30	Father Joe, Office Hrs.
Thur.	9:00 AM	Crochet Club
Thur.	9:00 AM	Men's Coffee Clutch, Grecian Family Restaurant

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Events and Dates of Notes

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

June 18	Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 21	6:00 PM Mission Council Meeting
June 24	Nativity of St. John The Baptist
June 25	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost,
	10:00 AM Children's Church
June 26	1:00 PM Creative Monday
June 29	Sts. Peter & Paul
July 2	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost,
	10:00 AM Children's Church
July 4	Independence Day
July 6	Noon Ladies Luncheon,
	TBA
July 9	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost,
	10:00 AM Children's Church

✦ Vicar's Vagaries - Gifted Members ✦

Though I had played sports as a youth, when I got married, I hardly watched any sports at all. But Cindy was different. As a Knoxville native, she grew up watching UT football and basketball games with her father. In our married life, she has maintained an abiding interest in football, basketball, swimming, and the Olympics. When our children were young, many of our family activities involved sports. Now that our children have grown and left home, Cindy and I still watch sports. We cheer for our favorite athletes the way we used to cheer for our sons. It's one of the things we do together, one of the things we talk about. I am glad for the common interest.

After the UT and the Titans' football seasons ended, and the NCAA basketball tournament ended, we decided for the first time in years to watch the NBA Playoffs. We both care about Grant Williams (on the Celtics) because we watched him play for UT.

You can't watch all that sports and read the Bible and not find some connections between the two. I see one very big connection between what is true in sports and a major teaching of the Christian faith as expressed in scripture. A sports team consists of several different members. The best players are those who, like Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets, highly value the part played by all the other players on the team. Sometimes very highly talented athletes don't help their team play better because they think they are the only important players on the team, and that the others don't matter. But a team possesses a variety of gifts. All the different players have gifts to offer. When the stars take over and don't help the other players make their contributions, their team is not likely to win. Even Michael Jordan had to involve the other players on his team. As good as he was, he didn't win games by himself.

Likewise, the members of a congregation bring to the Church a great variety of gifts. St. Paul puts it this way in the First Epistle to the Corinthians. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (I Cor. 12:4-7) Not everyone is an apostle; but all Christians have received the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit bestows rich gifts upon each member of the Church.

One of the reasons I love serving as a priest in the Church is because I get to know every member of the congregation I serve, and I often get to see the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to God's people. When I was fresh out of seminary, I didn't know what to expect from church members. I thought I had a wealth of knowledge and abilities, and that I would be called upon to teach and lead, and the church members would learn and grow. I would give, and they would receive. My perspective has changed.

6/6/2023 6:46 PM

Now I see that I am just one of a surprising mix of people who possess a large diversity of gifts. And I have learned that an amazing variety of gifts has been poured out upon any group of Christians who assemble in the name of our Lord. Challenging times sometimes provide just enough pressure to bring out gifts that might otherwise have lain dormant. Lately, we have had some challenging times, and people at Grace have stepped forward to offer their gifts for the well-being of the Church and the glory of God. I won't name names. You know who you are.

If you aren't so sure what your gifts are, I would love to talk with you about what inspires and interests you. It may be that I can help you discern gifts the Holy Spirit has given you which you did not know you had.

I try not to worry much about the Church these days. God knows what gifts he has given to the members of Christ's body, and he knows what he is calling them to be and do. I try to trust God to do his part while I put my effort into assisting the members of Grace Church in worshiping God and discerning and following God's will for them. I am always surprised at how God makes his goodness and strength manifest whenever the members of Grace Church step out in faith to serve him and to love one another.

Father Joe, Vicar

Hail, Thee, Festival Day!

Text: Hail, Thee, Festival Day!

Written by Venantius Honorius Fortunatus

Tune: SALVE FESTA DIES by Ralph Vaughan Williams

One of my favorite silly sayings is "I learn something new every day, if I'm not careful." That was especially true today, as I began to look for information on the hymn "Hail, Thee, Festival Day"!

In our hymnal there are three hymns that begin with the phrase "Hail Thee, Festival Day!" One is an *Easter* text, one is an *Ascension* text, and the third is a *Pentecost* text.

The author is Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (c. 530-609), who was born in Italy and died in France. Tradition says that he lost his sight, and it was restored

by the anointing of oil from a lamp from the altar of St. Martin of Tours in Ravenna. While on pilgrimage to St. Martin's tomb he was encouraged to visit Poitiers, where he later became a bishop.

Fortunatus was the author of more than 250 poems. The texts for these three hymns are found in a Latin poem of 110 lines, which was written to celebrate the conversion of the Saxons by Felix, Bishop of Nantes (c. 582). There have been several translations over the centuries, including one by Thomas Cranmer in 1544.

The tune we use to sing these three hymns was composed by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. It is perfect for a stately processional hymn, supported by the moving pedal line and the heart-lifting refrain.

This unusual hymn spans the church year from Eastertide to Pentecost. Here are the opening refrains from each of the hymns:

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day that art hallowed forever, day whereon Christ arose, breaking the kingdom of death.

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day that art hallowed forever, day when the Christ ascends, high in the heavens to reign.

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day that art hallowed forever, day when the Holy Ghost shone in the world with God's grace.

Summer Plan Set for Children's Church

This summer, we are doing something a bit more adventurous in Children's Church. We're taking a look at some of the lessons in the Old Testament. Not only are we going to hear the stories, but also experience them with our other senses.

The lessons will start at the very beginning with God's Creation and the Garden of Eden. Next, we will be experiencing Abraham's covenant with God. Then we move to Moses and from being a babe in a basket to his mighty journey leading God's people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, with several bumps along the way. Make sure you stop by the children's room and see the changes. And I'm sure the kids will be glad to let you know what we're learning this summer.

Since it is summer and people will be traveling, we will be spacing out when we have Children's Church. In June, we will meet on the 11th and 25th. In July, we will have it on the 2nd, 16th, and 30th. We will not have Children's Church during the month of August but will be back to having Children's Church every Sunday in September.

I invite everyone to get to know our great kids of Grace!

Lynn Rieger, Director, Children's Church

Safeguarding Course

It is essential to provide a safe and caring space for Grace's most valuable assets: our members, families, and friends.

The following clergy, lay employees, Mission Council members, children's church volunteers, etc., are required to complete eight Safe Church, Safe Communities training modules within 90 days of hire or placement:

Full-time and part-time church staff, whether paid or volunteer • vestry members • church treasurer • choir directors • Mission Council members • childcare workers • youth/children ministers and teachers • spiritual directors • Licensed worship leaders (preachers, catechists) • new member ministry leaders.

Following are the required courses to be completed:

1. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Introduction & Theological Background
2. Policies: Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee
3. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Inclusion
4. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Healthy Boundaries
5. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Power and Relationships
6. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Pastoral Relationships
7. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Abuse & Neglect
8. Safe Church, Safe Communities: Bullying

The above listed courses are all you need to complete. When you access the website, you will see many more courses available in addition to the ones listed above. Please understand that you are only required to take the courses listed.

You will receive an email from me advising the necessity of taking the Safeguarding Course. So, if you recently became one of Grace’s volunteers as noted above, please be on the lookout for an email message from me sharing the details of this course. If I do not have your email address, or if you don’t have one, please let someone know so I can contact you by phone.

Please note that as long as you are serving in one of the capacities indicated above, you are required by the Diocese to take the course every five years.

If you don’t receive a notification from me and believe you should take the course, please feel free to let me know via email at office@grace4sh.org. I am more than happy to assist in any way. If you are uncomfortable using the computer, I will be glad to meet you at Grace to guide you through the course.

Susan Browning, Finance Administrator

Peggy Baker: Love Yourself & Hope

Peggy Baker is fairly new to Spring Hill. After she moved here, she was drawn to the beautiful small church with the red door that happened to be just eight minutes from her home – Grace Episcopal Church. On January 30, 2022, she attended a service here for the first time and found the fellowship to be warm and welcoming. She felt at home – and joined the Grace family.

Peggy had actually joined the Episcopal Church on December 5, 1987, in Chicago, Illinois. She said, “I went to many different churches over my adult life, and I chose to become an Episcopalian because I liked the formalities of the service and celebration of the Eucharist.”

Peggy is retired and lives with her son, Morgan, his wife, and her three grandsons – as well as their three dogs.

Peggy likes to read and watch television, especially mysteries. She also enjoys doing a variety of craft projects, such as diamond art pictures.

One thing that stands out about Peggy is her purple rose tattoo. She got the tattoo done this year for her birthday; the stem says “Love yourself” to remind her how important it is to value ourselves as we value others. She actually has five tattoos; the first one she got on her 26th birthday.

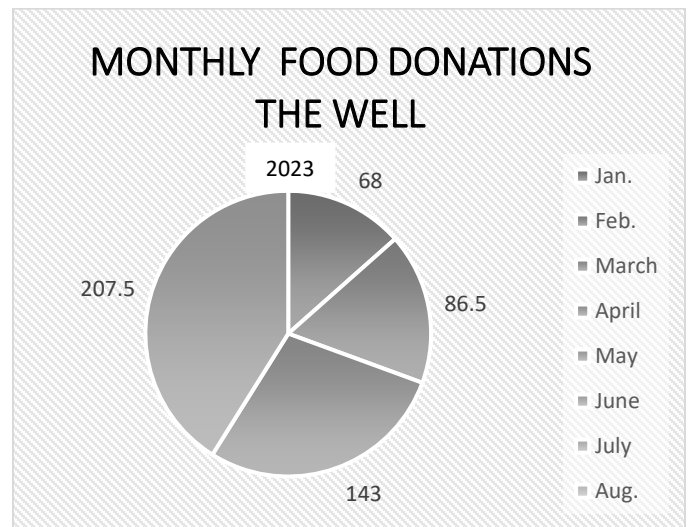
Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16 the numbers of hope.

Note: Diamond painting is a new art hobby popularized in the US and Europe in 2015. It involves **applying hundreds of multi-colored rhinestones on a canvas**. Each detail on the canvas is numbered, and you simply have to stick the corresponding piece of rhinestone to the detail.

What is the point of diamond painting? Crafters describe diamond painting as relaxing and calming. In fact, most say it is more stress-relieving than any other craft. Placing the diamonds one-by-one is extremely soothing and allows many people to enter a meditative state.

Karyl Chastain Beal

This an additional article in an occasional series introducing us to the people who are members of the Grace Episcopal Church family. If you would like to be featured or have a recommendation on who should be featured, please reach out to Carol Martinez.



YTD 2023 Totals * 505 Pounds of Food

A picture is worth a million words, or so they say. Charles Cochran, Community Outreach Liaison, collects and delivers all Grace donations to The Well each month. John Sage, Community Engagement Manager for The Well, has offered to address our group sometime and thank the generous givers of

Grace. He also offered to give anyone a tour of The Well facilities any time. The Well has now added another day plus additional hours to their schedule to assist better the clients of The Well.

Treasury Report for April 2023

Aprils revenues were \$7,901.00, which fell short of \$9,910.49 in expenses. For the first four months of 2023, expenses have exceeded revenues by \$3,789.67. We’ve still not had to touch the savings fund. Following is the general breakdown of funds, and the detailed information on accounts is attached.

Finances for April 2023 are as follows:

Pledged Offerings:	\$5,854.00
Plate Offerings:	\$483.00
Vicar’s Discretionary Fund:	\$0.00
Easter Gifts:	\$645.00
Good Friday Gifts:	\$125.00
Maundy Thursday Gifts:	\$149.00
Flowers:	\$520.00
Facilities Rental:	\$125.00

Total Revenues:	\$7,901.00
Total Expenses:	\$9,910.49
April Net Total:	-\$2,009.49

Banking Balances:

First Horizon Checking Account:	\$4,256.51
First Horizon Savings Account:	\$48,313.43

Savings Account Fund Breakdown

Organ Fund:	\$23,500.00
Building Fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated Fund:	\$4,157.48
Interest earned:	\$5.95

Total Available Funds, plus savings: **\$52,569.94**

David Thomas, Treasurer

April Mission Council Minutes

April 19, 2023

Attendance: Father Joseph Davis, Carol Martinez (Sr. Warden), Bill Rieger (Jr. Warden), David Thomas (Treasurer), Charles Cochran, Peggy Roberts, Robert Chapman, and Will Pomeroy. Fr. Joe gave an opening prayer.

Scribe’s Report – Will Pomeroy is filling in for Chuck Warnick who is on vacation. The minutes for the March 2023 Annual Meeting and the minutes for the Mission Council Meeting of March 15, 2023, were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: David Thomas sent the November financial reports to the mission council members. Please see the previous article on this page.

After discussion, the Treasurer’s reports were accepted. We need the written job description for the Treasurer. There was discussion about parking some of the money in a CD. The finance committee and MC will look at rates to make the best decision. Bill Rieger is straightening up the situation with bank cards. We received an online donation from a nonmember and the church will reach out to that person.

Vicar’s Report: Fr. Joe shared the following items:

- ❖ Father Joe gave a report of Father Peter’s Memorial Service in Columbia.
- ❖ Father Joe will continue to catch up with members we have not seen lately.
- ❖ Attendance has been picking up since March. Children’s church is helping to bring up attendance.
- ❖ 32 average Sunday attendance for last year. This year is about 34-35. Online numbers are higher too.
- ❖ Holy Week – Services and Activities had a good feel. Many people did their part and more.
- ❖ Having two LEMs to help with Communion really helped.
- ❖ Fr. Joe has completed and sent in the 2022 Parochial Report.
- ❖ A session of anti-racist training will be held at the Church of the Advent in Brentwood on May 20.
- ❖ May 16th is the 145th Grace Church Consecration Anniversary. There will be a dinner on May 18th.
- ❖ Carol will look into getting a banner to announce our 145th year out front.

Sr. Warden’s Report: Carol Martinez ❖ We do not yet have a regular cleaning person. Check the dishwasher as the McMod person in the morning. ❖ Special recognition will be given for those graduating in May. May 21st is graduation recognition day.

Jr. Warden's Report: Bill Rieger ❖ Bill reported there were 3 who attended the outside cleaning. ❖ The sacristy door is rotting badly. ❖ Bill has emailed the person about the parking lot getting recoated. Awaiting a response. ❖ No immediate issue with the roof but it might only last 1-5 more years. ❖ The grate needs repair. The floor is of the church is sagging down. He is looking at options to reinforce the floor as it is.

Liaison Reports:

❖ Children's Ministry – Will Pomeroy * Children's Church is still going well. Starting in June and July, it will only be the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and there will be none in August. * Bell ringers at the close of the service are going well.* Children will be invited to come to Creative Mondays in June and July. 1-3 pm.* Our Children's Church is doing activities with our older members.

❖ Communications – Peggy Roberts * Went to diocesan meeting in Brentwood for the vestry and mission council members. Most of the meeting was about the history of the church in Tennessee. There are forty-five congregations in Middle Tennessee with a sixteen million dollar budget.* Peggy has completed the new member directories and they look great. * Membership decline is result in deaths and not being able to replace with new members. * 2020 – decline is 3.3k membership statewide. * New members are continuing to come to Grace and our members continue to reach out to them.

❖ Community Outreach * Grace donated two hundred ninety-seven and one-half lbs. of food year-to-date. This doesn't include any donations from individual members outside of our church collections of food. * We are collecting plastic bottle caps to make benches for the community.

❖ Congregational Life – Robert Chapman * Talked about doing another Divine Swine for next year. * Asking members to sign up for the 5th Sunday Brunch. Robert fixed the rocking chair.

Next Mission Council Meetings: May 17, June 21, and July 19.

Fr. Joe closed the meeting with a blessing at 7:28 PM.

Clergy and Staff

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

The Mission Council

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden
Bill Rieger, Junior Warden
David Thomas, Treasurer
Robert Chapman, Congregational Life
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach
Peggy Roberts, Communications
Will Pomeroy, Christian Education & Children's Ministry

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

<https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org/#giving>.

