

Grace Episcopal Church
5291 N. Main St.
Spring Hill, TN 37174
931-486-3223
Office@grace4sh.org

Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 4
April 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
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Father Joe, <i>Office Hours</i>
Wed.	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist

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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.

May 2	Apostles St. Philip & St. James
May 5	Ladies Luncheon
May 15	Potluck Dinner after Sunday Service

May 16	Grace Episcopal Church consecrated 1878
May 26	Ascension Day Special Noon Eucharist
May 29	Blessing food donation to The Well
May 31	Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary

Vicar's Vagaries

I am writing this on Tuesday night, April 26, from my study at home. Before I send this issue out, I want to say a few words about something that has been much on my mind and much in the news. I haven't preached about it, and we have only given this matter slight attention in our Prayers of the People, but I believe the War in Ukraine to be one of the matters of greatest importance in our lifetimes.

On the Thursday when I returned home after the clergy silent retreat in the last days of February, Vladimir Putin sent his troops to invade Ukraine. The Ukrainians have refused to bow down to Putin. I believe the war in Ukraine to be one of the greatest moral struggles of our time, and I believe it is completely amazing that a comic actor, Vladimir Zelenskyy, has suddenly become world renowned as the bravest man in the world. He is standing up for the freedom and the lives of his people. He is leading his people to fight against a Russian army that reminds one of the ancient Assyrians from biblical days, a power that kills, destroys, and deports the people who get in their way. Have you seen *Servant of the People*? (Season One is currently available on Netflix, and clips are available on YouTube.) That is the television show that Zelenskyy was on before he was elected President of Ukraine. He played a history teacher whose high school students released a secret video

of him having a melt-down rant about how bad things were in Ukraine. The teenagers told him the next day when he apologized for his behavior not to feel bad, because all of their parents would vote for him if they had the chance. In real life, he was soon elected as president. Now, rather than fleeing for his life, he is staying in Ukraine and fighting for his homeland, his people, and for the freedom of people everywhere. This is not a television show. He is prepared to die for his country.

To learn more about Ukraine, Cindy and I have also watched two movies. *Winter on Fire* is an award-winning documentary about the revolution of 2014-2015. It gives the background one needs in order to understand how the Ukrainians are so strong in their resistance. We also watched *Mr. Jones*, a movie about the millions who were intentionally starved in Ukraine under Stalin in 1931-1932. I highly recommend both movies to gain background on what is at stake right now and why the Ukrainians would rather die free than live under Russian rule.

My son Maclin swam on relays with one of the top swimmers from Russia who is now a professional swimmer in Los Angeles. I have checked on him to see how he is doing these days. He deplores the war, and he is very hurt by the hatred of Americans against Russians, most of whom are opposed to the war. Let us reach out to Russians and support them as they resist what the Russian dictator, whom they did not choose, has brought upon the world.

Every night before dinner, Cindy and I give thanks for our meal, pray for our family, and pray for Ukraine. We pray that the people of Ukraine will be strengthened in their fight and that the Russians will turn away from their aggression. We pray that Putin will decide it is in his best interests to end this completely unnecessary war and that if he does not, the people of Russia will replace him with a leader that will value peace, the lives of the Russian people, and fellowship with other nations over war, conquest, and chaos. Please keep the people in Ukraine in your prayers, too.

Father Joe

Grace Makes Contribution

Members of Grace Episcopal Church contributed \$275 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund during the Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt's visit to the church on Jan. 30.

In a thank you note to Father Joe, the Bishop wrote:

"The Bishop's Discretionary Fund is an extension of your ministry through the office of the Bishop. The Bishop's Discretionary Fund is the source of support for special and unique situations in the diocese where no other funds are available. Thank you for helping make this ministry possible through your generosity. This comes with prayers for your continuing Christian ministry and service through the Episcopal Church."

The Story of a Fine Hymn

Text: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,

by Isaac Watts

Melody: ROCKINGHAM, harmonized

by Edward Miller

Isaac Watts has come to be known as "The Father of English Hymnody." Our Hymnal 1982 has seventeen of his hymn texts, and I would guess that the best known to us is "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

He was born in 1674 in Southampton, the first of eight children. His father, Isaac Watts, Sr., had separated from the Church of England, and was known as a Dissenter.

He was jailed several times during the 1670s; his wife would bring infant Isaac to the prison and sit on the front steps so that Isaac Sr. could hear his son cry.

Isaac, Jr. showed early signs of intelligence, as well as a talent for rhyme. His father began teaching him Latin when he was four, and he was well-educated at a private school during his young years, and at a Nonconformist Academy for his college education. Dissenting students were not allowed to enroll at Cambridge or Oxford.

Isaac spent about two and a half years at home following his college work. He devoted his time to reading, meditating, walking, praying, and seeking God's will for his future. During this time in

English Congregational Churches, singing was only the Psalms, which had been made metrical, or put into the form of poems. Isaac thought they were ponderous and difficult to sing, and with the encouragement of his father, began to write hymns for his congregation—he wrote a new one for them each week.

He began publishing his hymns in 1707, and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” was included. It was inspired by Galatians 6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” The original title was “Crucifixion to the World, by the Cross of Christ.” Many consider it to be the finest English hymn, and Charles Wesley reportedly said that he would rather have written this than all of his own.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Deanie Moore, Dir. of Music

Volunteers Needed at The Well

The Well is beginning their transition from curbside grocery pick-up to open shopping for their guests. The current facility was designed and built with the open shopping plan in mind, but the Covid pandemic delayed its implementation. This new plan will require more volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include:

Reception - Greets and welcomes guests and answers questions.

Guest intake - Meets with guests in a welcome center and provide prayer support, encouragement, and recommend additional resources as needed.

Personal shopper - Supports the shopping experience of guests by answering questions, reaching hard to get items, and providing a warm shopping experience.

Bagging team - Helps guests transfer food from cart into grocery bags.

Carts & Curbside - Helps guests load up their vehicle with groceries and return carts. Also operates curbside delivery in partnership with the receptionist.

Warehouse - Sorts donations and restocks shelves.

Donation expert - Receives food donations from community members, assists unloading donations from vehicles, and provides documentation for all donations.

This transition will take a few months. By May, The Well anticipates that up to 20 percent will be drive thru and 80 percent open shopping. Guests may choose which plan they prefer.

Volunteer orientation takes place every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. and again at 5 p.m. After the orientation session, you may sign up for volunteer positions, dates, and times. Most shifts are for a 2 hour time period. Breaks are allowed and bottled water and snacks are provided. Happy Volunteering!

If you would like to contribute food to The Well donation boxes are located in Faith Hall at Grace Episcopal Church.

Laurie McNutt, Congregational Life

Spring and New Beginnings

Watching closely for all the important signs of spring, the first tiny flowers, beautiful sunny days, early slow bumble bees, baby ducks and chicks, budding trees, we are all filled with anticipation and newly reborn energies.

We members of Grace Episcopal Church have received a generous amount of those signs early this season. Grace will receive two baby boys into our church, Leon Mott on April 17, and Barrett Pomeroy on May 1. What a momentous time for both baby boys, their families, and Grace Church.

Our church has had an unanticipated number of visitors worship with us recently, an answer to our many prayers and source of immense joy after a long COVID challenge. All Grace members reach out to welcome fresh faces, and I am certain that will always happen. Please encourage new persons to sign the book in the entry and/or fill out a card in the pew pocket. As part of a renewal of the Newcomers Committee I will strive to reach out to each guest with a note, a call, and a reminder of current events of the church. Anyone who would like to be a part of the committee, please contact me at proberts000@charter.net, 931.625.6069. I will need help identifying interested people joining our service via Facebook on Sundays. Also, help is needed to inform all new people of our pot-luck lunch after church on months that have a fifth Sunday, Women's Luncheons, and Men's Breakfasts, and all other Grace functions.

May we all enjoy the many spring signs and always say thanks for our new Grace people.

Peggy Roberts, Newcomer Committee

Grace's Facebook Page Showcases Our Congregation and Celebrates our Faith

If you are looking for information about Grace Episcopal Church, you might want to visit our Facebook page. The name of the page is: Grace Episcopal Spring Hill, TN and there are 156 members of the group.

Sunday services are posted on the page and are available for viewing during and after the services. Also, you can see the weekly bulletin and issues of Grace Notes. Posts on the page include upcoming events, photos of the building and the garden and items of interest to the congregation. Of course, I sometimes manage to include a post that includes a photograph or mention of one of my granddaughters or my dogs.

During the past month, there were more than thirty posts on the page. Thanks so much to frequent posters: Dave Thomas, James Dallas, Alicia Fitts and of course, Father Joe. If you know someone who is interested in learning more about our church, the Facebook page is a good resource.

Here is what the above section says:

This is a Facebook Group for those associated with Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill. This loving congregation seeks to bring glory to God,

build the spirituality of our people, and bring Christ to our community.

We are a community of faith. We love the LORD and our neighbors and to paraphrase our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, everybody is our neighbor.

Our Facebook page must reflect our values. We expect posters to be respectful of all. We will remove any comments that are insulting, attacking, harassing or display anger towards others. We specifically will remove any comments or posts that use vulgar language, contain disturbing photos, contain commercial advertising, or reflect aggressive behavior.

We invite you to visit the Grace Facebook page and share items that you think would be of interest to our congregation.

Carol Martinez, Communications Liaison

Crochet Group Meets at Grace

Around 2006, a group of women started a crochet group. They met every Thursday at the Community House in Thompson's Station. Not only did they crochet, but there was line dancing, and some played Bridge and Rook.

Gradually the group stopped everything but the ones who crochet. Then I came along and knitted, but they let me in anyway. Now there are several others who knit. We pass along patterns and if someone has a problem there are others who can help. Then the Community House of Thompson's Station told us they were going to charge us to use the building, so we started looking for another place in the area. I asked the Mission Council if we could meet in Faith Hall. They let us meet, and it is a delightful place to meet.

We not only make things for ourselves and our families, but in the past, we have donated to several charities. We made hats for the boys at The Children's Home and Christmas presents to the staff of several nursing homes. We crocheted or knitted bonnets for premature babies.

Since then, we have had several new members join the group. Everyone is welcome. If you have a problem with a pattern, there is usually someone there to help. After the meeting, we also enjoy lunch together. If anyone is interested, please contact Diann Schneider, diannb1948@gmail.com.

Diann Schneider, Senior Warden

Treasury Report for February 2022

February was a month with a positive balance, with revenues falling short of expenses by \$537.02, but for 2022 we still have a positive balance of \$1,522.82. With the increasing attendance and passing the plate, we've seen increased plate income. Additionally, we have been seeing some fresh faces in the congregation and hopefully that keeps up as well.

Stewardship has been promising, even though we had fewer making a formal pledge than last year. With only twenty-six pledges submitted, the total pledged is \$73,624.00. We had thirty-two formal pledges in 2021 totaling \$78,560.00, so a bit shy of the previous year. Thankfully, we are seeing an increase in plate revenue. Although the future is not yet so bright that we have to wear shades, we can certainly see breaks in the clouds. This financial information is the most current information that I have available.

Finances for February are as follows:

Stewardship gifts:	\$3,681.00
Plate gifts:	\$482.05
Total Donor Gifts:	\$4,343.05
Facilities rental:	\$100.00
Vicar's discretionary fund:	\$375.00
Memorial fund:	\$25.00
Total Revenue:	\$4,843.05
Total Expenses:	\$5,380.07
Net Total:	-\$537.02

Banking Balances:

Checking balance:	\$3,680.54
Savings balance:	\$49,266.38

Breakdown of Savings:

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated fund:	\$5,116.01
Interest earned:	\$0.37

Total Savings **\$49,265.60**

Total Assets: **\$52,946.92**

David Thomas, Treasurer

March Mission Council Meeting

The Grace Mission Council met on March 16. Fr. Joe recognized that a quorum was present and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Scribe's Report - The minutes of the Feb. 16 meeting were reviewed and accepted with three corrections.

Treasurer's report, see article on page 4.

Vicar's Report - COVID-19 protocols for activities and services were discussed. The consensus was to adopt and follow modifications. There was a discussion about restarting the choir and children's church.

Fr. Joe outlined his plan for recent contributions received in the Vicar's Discretionary Fund. He plans to contribute a portion to Ukraine Relief. Also, he will purchase Kroger Gift Cards for people in need.

Fr. Joe discussed the recent influx of visitors for Sunday services.

A reminder was given regarding Holy Week Services.

Sr. Warden's Report - Diann sent a list of Mission Council members and their liaison affiliations to the Bishop's Office.

Jr. Warden's report - HVAC Spring Cleaning is set for March 22. A tree trimming service will be doing work at Grace.

The following items were reported by the Liaison Chairs:

Children's Ministry and Christian Education - See Vicar's report.

Community Outreach - Donations were sent to The Well.

Communications - Discussion about a banner sign that says, "We're Open." James Dallas has volunteered to update the Grace Website.

Congregational Life - Activities scheduled include coffee hour after church each Sunday; Ladies Lunch the first Sunday of each month, and Potluck Dinner, May 15 after church.

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

Chuck Warnick, Scribe

Special Note on Scheduling for May

I will take off the week of May 2-9, and in the middle of the next week, I will be away at our diocesan clergy conference in Sewanee on May 10-12. Furthermore, Ascension Day is on May 26, on a Thursday as always.

Therefore, there will be no Wednesday Eucharist on May 4, May 11, or May 25. On Ascension Day, we will celebrate the Eucharist on this major feast at noon, on the day itself, May 26, as Ascension Day, like Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter, is not a transferrable feast.

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 Schnieder, 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 QR code below.

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

