

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 11  
November 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 (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays)
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
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.

Nov. 20	Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
<b>Nov. 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>Raking of the Leaves</b>

<b>Nov. 27</b>	<b>Children's Church Resumes</b>
Nov. 27	The First Sunday of Advent
Nov. 30	St. Andrew the Apostle
<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>Ladies' Lunch Christmas Party</b>
<b>Dec. 2 &amp; 3</b>	<b>Maury County Christmas Historic Home Tour (Includes Grace)</b>
Dec. 4	Second Sunday of Advent,
<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>Spring Hill Christmas Parade</b>
Dec. 11	Third Sunday of Advent, <b>2023 Pledges will be Blessed</b>
Dec. 18	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec. 21	St. Thomas the Apostle
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service, 6:00p.m.</b>
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
Dec. 26	St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
Dec. 27	St. John
Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents

## The Vicar's Vagaries

### **Advent Changes on the Way**

This year, the chilly weather came as a slap in the face to us after we got used to unusually mild weather in late October and early November. In the next several days, we will go through a seasonal transition that will happen so fast, it could make our heads swim. This Sunday is the Last after Pentecost, or Christ the King. We always conclude the Church Year by celebrating that Christ is the King of all creation, even though he began his reign from the cross on Good Friday. On this Sunday we always sing some of the grandest hymns. Then, suddenly, Thanksgiving is upon us. Many people travel to be with family because, when else can we see our loved ones who live far away? Or even those who live in the same city? May your Thanksgiving Day be a day

of tranquility and joy in the contemplation of the goodness of life, past, present, and future. We will celebrate on Wednesday, November 23, a Eucharist using the lessons for Thanksgiving Day, so come and hear what the Bible has to say about reasons for giving thanks to the Father of all blessings.

Then, like a thief in the night, Advent will be upon us on Sunday, November 27. In contrast to the spirit of the world, the Church teaches us to learn to wait on God during the four weeks of Advent. The Advent wreath will be set up in the church with one candle lit for every week of Advent as time passes. Let us remember that we are preparing for the Second Coming of our Savior. He has already come once as a baby, and when he comes back, it will be as reigning Lord. This is a great mystery, but it is well attested in scripture, so let us be open to its meaning. I recommend that all of us make sure we attend church, (in person, if possible) each Sunday during Advent. Each Advent Sunday is unique and prepares us in its own way for the return of our Lord.

During Advent, we say the penitential acclamation (“Bless the Lord who forgives all our sin.” “His mercy endures forever.”) We sing the “Kyrie” (“Lord, have mercy upon us”) and the “Agnus Dei (O Lamb of God).” And the hymns are in minor keys and modes to help us feel the longing of God’s people to be brought back home by our God. We will use Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP p. 367), which emphasizes the prophets and the incarnation in a way appropriate to the season. We can only be truly at home in his house and as part of his kingdom. May our devotion this Advent prepare us to greet with joy the Advent of the Lord.

Deanie and I are working on a possible service of lessons and carols for December 18 at 10:00 a.m. Look for an announcement to come soon.

Father Joe

### **Now Thank We All Our God**

“Now Thank We All Our God” is a hymn that we traditionally sing during the time leading up to Thanksgiving. Years ago, I discovered that the text

was originally written not to be sung, but as a table blessing to be said together in gratefulness to God.

The author was Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor. He was born in 1586, the son of a coppersmith. He was a chorister at St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, where J. S. Bach was the organist from 1723 until 1750.

At the age of 31, Rinkart was called to be a pastor in his native town of Eilenberg. It was at the beginning of the Thirty Years’ War, and his little walled town became a refuge for political and military refugees. The overcrowding brought disease and famine many times through the years. The plague of 1637 was particularly severe. At its height, Rinkart was the only pastor who had remained in the town and was sometimes conducting as many as 50 funerals a day, including funerals for his wife and several of their children. He wrote these words in the midst of war, disease, and famine:

Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom His world rejoices.  
Who from our mothers’ arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Thru all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us.  
And keep us in His Grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven—  
The one eternal God  
Whom earth and heav’n adore—  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

The text was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in 1858, and its popularity quickly spread through the English-speaking world. The tune is by Johann Cruger, one of Germany's finest and most prolific composers. His tune with this text first appeared in a hymnal in 1647.

I have used this as a grace for us to pray together at Thanksgiving, and I would encourage you to do this with your friends and family as you gather this year.  
Deanie Moore, Music Director

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

We all should give a special thank you to Susan Austin for managing the leaves that fall from the trees at Grace. She and her grandchildren and a few other helpers take care of our yard. Fall is a wonderful time to see trees - the colors are so very beautiful.

Earlier this year I traveled to Washington, D.C. to see the Yoshino cherry trees in bloom. And while I was there my sister Tricia and I visited the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Built over 83 years of construction, it is a beautiful place that has experienced many important events in the history of our country, including the funerals of Presidents George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford and Dwight D. Eisenhower. We visited the Space Window, War Memorial, and of course the most popular site at the cathedral, a stone carving of Darth Vader.

While I was at the Cathedral, I prayed, lit a candle for a family member, and picked up some information about Thanksgiving Prayers. The introduction says that the prayers are to help you stay in touch with God no matter how you're feeling. Here are two of those prayers:

*"I'm Feeling Joyful"* - Lord, I praise you for the things that bring me you every day: for a safe home and food on the table, the smiles of friends, times of useful work, and times of rest. Keep my eyes open to your gracious hand in all things so that, rejoicing in your whole creation, I may serve you with gladness for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*"I'm Feeling Sad"* - Lord, my heart is heavy today. I see the sorrows of the world around me. The sorrows in my own life sometimes threaten to overwhelm me. I long to know your joy and peace,

but today I can't find them. Look on me with pity. Remember me, O Lord, in your mercy, nourish my soul with patience, comfort me with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon me, and give me peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I will share more of these prayers on the Grace Facebook page. And if you are ever in Washington, D.C. please visit the Cathedral. Also, you may sign up for *Cathedral News*, their monthly newsletter, or visit their website: [www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org).

And finally, The National Cathedral is found close to the Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute home of 1,800 animals standing for 360 species, including Giant Pandas.

Carol Martinez, Communications

### **Christmas Outreach**

This is the sixth year that Grace has adopted families to provide gifts for those families that cannot afford presents on their own for Christmas. In 2021, we adopted families from The Well, the food bank that we support on a monthly basis. Grace supplied Christmas gifts, hams, and gift cards, according to each family's needs. The Well also provided a week's supply of groceries. This year we will again help The Well with their Christmas outreach.

The gifts that we provide are often the only presents these families receive. Many of the requested items are basics like: socks, shoes, pants, sweaters, and other essential clothing items. Last year a few days before Christmas, Charles Cochran, Lynn Rieger, Dave Thomas, and John Harvey had the opportunity and privilege to deliver personally the Grace gifts and Well food donations to these families.

As soon as we receive the list of families and their needs from The Well, we will post it on the bulletin board in Faith Hall and share with Grace members via email. Do you have an interest in shopping for others in need of a special Christmas or in delivering good wishes and gifts to those families? For more information on this Outreach Program, please reach out to Charles Cochran, [charlesC535@yahoo.com](mailto:charlesC535@yahoo.com), 903.278.8131.

### **Spring Hill Christmas Parade Set**

On Saturday, Dec. 10, the festive Spring Hill Christmas Parade will be marching down Main Street and the sidewalks will be filled with folks from Spring Hill and the surrounding area. So, as in years past, we plan to open the doors of Grace and welcome in the onlookers to get warm, have a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider, and decorate Christmas cookies. The kids will be able to make some crafts. This is a great outreach opportunity to provide friendly hospitality to our community and allow them a chance to see *what's behind the red door*.

The parade is scheduled from 5 to 6:30 p.m., but they start closing the roads leading up to the parade route around 4 p.m. So, you may want to plan to get to the church around 3:30 or a little earlier just to make sure you can park close to the church. We will be putting final touches on decorating the church and encourage everyone to go out and greet the onlookers as they start piling in along the parade route and welcome them into the church. We will be handing out the hot beverages to those sitting around the church if they don't want to take the chance of losing their spot.

Soon, there will be a sign-up sheet in Faith Hall asking people to sign up to bring items needed for the parade. Meanwhile, start inviting family and friends to come join this FESTIVE fun!!

Lynn Rieger

### **Poinsettias Bloom at Grace**

Poinsettias will once again decorate our church during the Christmas season. The plant's association with Christmas began in Mexico in the 16th century. December 12 is National Poinsettia Day. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus.

Linda Colmore and the Altar Guild are accepting donations for the flowers. Everyone who contributes or wants to make a dedication needs to send a message to Susan Browning, financial administrator, with that information so it can go into the bulletin for Christmas Eve.

For more information, please contact Linda Colmore at 625-403-7498 or [lcolmore@aol.com](mailto:lcolmore@aol.com)

### **Grace Giving Information**

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

The 2023 Stewardship campaign at Grace Episcopal Church is underway. You should have already received a stewardship letter along with a pledge card. Completed pledge cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to a member of the Stewardship committee: Fr. Joe, Carol Martinez or Dave Thomas. Also, you may pledge online by visiting the Grace website [graceepiscopalspringhill.org](http://graceepiscopalspringhill.org). If you have any questions or need a pledge card or letter, please reach out to a member of the stewardship committee.

Susan Browning, Grace's financial administrator, will be sending out a letter regarding the 2022 stewardship campaign. If you are planning to fulfill the remainder of your stewardship pledge for 2022, the deadline for accepting pledge payment checks is Sunday, January 1, 2023. Please date your check December 31, 2022. Any payments after that date will be paid towards your 2023 Stewardship pledge. If you have any questions about your 2022 pledge, you may contact Susan Browning at [office@grace4sh.org](mailto:office@grace4sh.org).

Carol Martinez, Stewardship Chairperson

### **2023 Calendar Available**

Paper copies of the Episcopal Church Year Guide calendar are available in Faith Hall. The calendar includes Principal Feasts, Holy Days, Days of Special Devotion, and Days of Optional Observance. Usage for each entry in the calendar is guided by The Book of Common Prayer. The calendar is edited and compiled by The Rt. Rev. Barry E. Yingling.

If you do not have access to Faith Hall and would like to have a copy of the calendar, please reach out to Carol Martinez, [carolcm443@gmail.com](mailto:carolcm443@gmail.com) or 213-434-5710.

## Grace Finances for September 2022

September was a good month for Grace's finances. Revenues were slightly increased over those in August, and expenses were decreased by a third of those for August. September gave us revenues of \$9,935.00 and \$7,881.40 in expenses, leaving a positive balance of \$2,053.60. Year to date, Grace is still holding up well. Even though there've been spikes to revenues or expenses, revenues are trailing expenses by only \$2,261.76. We notice the revenue side heading into the holidays and have not had to move any funds from savings. Following is the general breakdown of funds, and the detailed information on accounts is attached.

### **Finances for September 2022 are as follows:**

Pledged offerings:	\$7,532.00
Plate offerings:	\$1,786.00
Special offerings:	\$492.00
<b>Total offerings:</b>	<b>\$9,810.00</b>

Facilities rental:	\$125.00
<b>Total revenue:</b>	<b>\$9,935.00</b>
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>\$7,881.40</b>
<b>September net total:</b>	<b>\$2,053.60</b>

### **Banking balances:**

First Horizon checking account:	\$6,075.06
First Horizon savings account:	\$48,271.76

### **Savings Account Fund Breakdown:**

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated fund:	\$4,121.37
Interest earned:	\$0.39
<b>Total available funds plus checking:</b>	<b>\$54,346.82</b>

David Thomas, Treasurer

## September Mission Council Minutes

September 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m., the Grace Mission Council meeting was called to order. Eight members were present and one absence. Father Joe opened the meeting with a prayer.

Carol Martinez gave the scribe's report. The August 17, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved. A copy of the minutes will be provided to Susan Browning, for permanent records.

David Thomas gave the Treasurer's Report. The report can be found in the Newsletter. The Audit

Committee will complete its work before the deadline.

The Vicar's Report - Father Joe had to leave early in the meeting due to an emergency call and returned later in the meeting. Susan Thomas chaired the meeting temporarily. The council discussed the newcomers' and inquirers' class and will address the class at the next meeting when Father Joe is present.

Review and Letter of Agreement Update: Father Joe has spoken with Canon Howard about both of these but have not scheduled a date.

The 2023 Nominating Committee for Mission Council: Diann and Susan are naming candidates. Laurie McNutt will relocate from the area in November and a candidate needs to be identified to complete her term as Congregational Life representative which ends at the end of 2023.

Everyone was reminded of the Blessing of the Pets, October 9 at 1:00 p.m.

The blessing of the new window is tentatively scheduled for November 5. Father Joe will be available after his vacation.

Diann Schneider gave the Senior Warden's report. The McMod schedule is underway, and the Senior Warden asked anyone unable to work as scheduled to exchange dates with another member of the Mission Council.

Jr. Warden, Susan Austin, reports a grant from Maury County Historical Society for interior painting and repair. The grant was submitted by Susan Austin and Diann Schneider and will be presented September 26 at 4:30 p.m. Annual maintenance of the HVAC system is scheduled for October 4. A contractor is going to replace the gutters for an estimated amount of \$5,000. Two anonymous donors gave this amount. Additionally, the contractor will estimate how much it will cost to repair and replace the areas of wood rot. Susan will report on what must be done at the next meeting.

### **Ministry Liaison Reports**

*Children's Ministry & Christian Education* – Will Pomeroy. Children's church was put on hold due to COVID. It is not known when classes will resume.

*Communication* – Carol Martinez. The Stewardship campaign is being prepared. Facebook page continues to grow its outreach.

*Community Outreach* – Charles Cochran. Grace members continue to donate food to The Well.

Charles will reach out to The Well regarding a Christmas project.

Congregational Life – Laurie McNutt. Laurie delivered a report on the upcoming ministry fair and the fair’s title, “Growing in Grace.” There will two events, one in the fall and another in the spring so all ministries may be included. Laurie also gave an update on the Ladies’ Luncheons; the most recent event took place at Fozzy’s and 11 attended. The October 6 luncheon will take place at Alicia Fitts’s farm and everyone will bring her own lunch. Also, Laurie wanted to thank Sheila Flynn for her work in the Grace garden including adding a rose bush and a hydrangea.

Father Joe ended the meeting at 7:02p.m. with a blessing. The next meetings will be October 19, Nov. 16, and December 14.

### **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 QR code below.

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

