

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

Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 3
 March 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, or LaRue Schmelzer.

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist & Facebook Live Service
Mon.	1:00 p.m.	Creative Mondays (2 nd &4 th Mondays)
Wed.	Noon	Holy Eucharist
Wed.	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Series (March)
Thur.	9:00 a.m.	Crochet Club
Tues. & Fri.	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting

<u>Newsletter Articles</u>	
Vicar's Vagaries	Pg. 1-2
"The Glory of These Forty Days"	Pg. 2-3
Children's Church & Ministry	Pg. 3
Nine Important Gardens	Pg. 3
Rejuvenation of Our Souls	Pg. 3
New Grace Stationary	Pg. 4
Shopping for The Well	Pg. 4
Susan Browning: Lover of Numbers, Family, & Cats	Pg. 4
Finance & Mission Council Reports	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.

March 15	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Lenten Series 3
March 16	6:00 p.m.	Mission Council Mtg.
March 22	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Lenten Series 4
March 25		The Annunciation
March 25	9-2:00 p.m.	Bishop's Day (Wardens, Vestries, Mission Council, & Trs.)
March 29	6:00 p.m.	Wed. Lenten Series 5
April 1	TBD	Spring Outside Fun Day
April 2	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday- Passion Sunday
April 6	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thurs. Liturgy
April 7	3:00 p.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
April 8	10:00 a.m.	Holy Sat. Lit.
April 9	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday
April 13		Ladies Luncheon Faith Hall
April 16	10:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Easter
April 23	10:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Easter
April 25		St. Mark The Evangelist
April 30	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30	11:30 a.m.	Fifth Sunday Potluck

Vicar's Vagaries

As we approach the fourth Sunday in Lent, it is time for a reminder about **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 2

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 Matthew in parts with all the congregation participating in the reading. This is the beginning of Holy Week, the holiest week of the year.

Maundy Thursday, April 6

The Maundy Thursday service begins at 6:00 p.m. This is the night that begins the Great Three Days of Holy Week, when we commemorate the Paschal Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "*mandare*, to command." Jesus gave the New Commandment on this night, telling his disciples to "Love one another as I have loved you." As he shares the ceremonial meal with them on this night, giving himself in forms of bread and wine, he tells them, "Do this in remembrance of me." After stripping the altar, we leave the starkly empty church in silence.

Good Friday, April 7

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.

Holy Saturday, April 8, 10:00 a.m.

On this morning, members of the Daughters of the King will lead a brief Liturgy of the Word in the bare church. We recognize that this is the Great Sabbath, the day when Jesus rested in the tomb before his glorious resurrection. We wait in hope because we know that God's love is stronger than death.

Easter Day, April 9

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!"

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.

Father Joe

Sacramental Confession:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

If you would like to make your confession before Easter or at any time of the year, please contact me for an appointment. We can talk about how to prepare for confession and arrange a time. Read about the Sacrament of Reconciliation in *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 446 and following. I recommend sacramental confession to all people. It is good for the soul to face our sins by making a thorough self-examination, admitting the wrongs we have done, and asking for the grace of forgiveness, healing, and strength not to sin again. Once you repent, you are forgiven anyway; but it can help to have a priest pronounce absolution over you.

Father Joe

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

Text: Latin, 6th Century.

perhaps Pope Gregory.

Translated by Maurice F. Bell

Tune: Erhalt uns, Herr, 1543

"The Glory of These Forty Days" is a hymn we sing every year during the Season of Lent. The text encourages us to fast by providing examples of fasting throughout the Bible. If we are able to participate in the discipline of fasting, we are joining with Jesus, who fasted in the desert for 40 days; Moses, who fasted on the mountain before he was given the Ten Commandments; Elijah fasted, and the Lord provided for him; Daniel and his friends continued to pray and follow their God, despite the threats, and the laws that were made to discredit

them, and John the Baptist surely fasted throughout his life.

The last two verses are a prayer for the strength and grace for us to follow these examples set before us. This is my prayer for all of us during these 40 days.
Deanie Moore, Music Director

Children's Church and Ministry



Children's Church continues to progress thanks to the work of instructors Nicole Poirier, James Dallas, Susan Austin, and Lynn Rieger. Children attending range from ages 3-14, and they receive Christian education that helps them better understand lessons of the Bible. Instruction is hands-on with models, costumes, and games to help the children learn and includes various books and lessons from the New Testament.

Classroom instruction takes place every Sunday in Faith Hall at 10 a.m.

Will also told me his son Barrett asks about church when he wakes up in the mornings. What terrific motivation for everyone involved in our Children's Education Team!

Will Pomeroy, Children's Church &
Children's Ministry



Nine Important Gardens

In the final verse of "*Le tour du jardin par l'enfant*" translated "The Child's Chi Garden Tour," we are asked the question "Who knew so many gardens at one small church exist?" My answer is quite a few, but perhaps not enough.

The grounds at Grace for many can be a transitional space as you prepare to enter the church to worship. Do you take the time to soak in the beauty of His creation as you begin your journey down the sidewalk to the front door? It need not be a perfunctory walk. Decompression need not wait for the Narthex. Combined with an exhale as you pass the organ window, a glance at the alcove garden might be just enough to calm your mind and open your heart before you lift it to the Lord.

Do you allow the beauty of His creation to seep into you as you begin your journey down the sidewalk to the front door?

As of late the grounds are crisper, cleaner, and more inviting. Sheila Flynn, Susan Austin, and Laurie McNutt are to be commended for the hours they have dedicated to the grounds of Grace over the past few years. Others have helped along the way, and you can, too. One facet of the vision for the grounds is that they match or reflect the beauty inside the church. Even if you do not have the grand garden vision, you can be among those who help shape the look, and make the grounds all they can be and what they should be.

I have traveled to many of our Lord's great outdoor cathedrals to seek solitude and reflection. Paradoxically I have learned that beauty and grandeur can be found anywhere we look for it, on any scale, in any place. I believe this is what we have in the gardens at Grace. As you exit church sometime this spring, I encourage you to take a right. Walk a different way to explore the church grounds. While I can't promise you a road less traveled experience, I know that you will find something that speaks to you in the nine or more distinct gardens.

Please come join us in the gardens for Spring Outside Fun Day (formerly known as Outside Work Day) on Saturday, April 1, (time TBD). Enfants and adultes welcome.

Bill Rieger. Junior Warden

Rejuvenation of Our Souls

The Lenten Season is about reflection, atonement, and new beginnings. Easter is clearly the epitome of purity and new life for all believers. Again, as Easter Season approaches, we are preparing to decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies, a perfect sign of new life, purity, and a symbol of rejuvenation of the soul. We are again asking members for their donations of money for white lilies. All contributions will be received by Linda Colmore and the Altar Guild. All offerings should be noted Easter Lily Fund and need to be received by April 2. Please note if your contribution is given in memory of someone or an event. Donations and contacts should be addressed to Linda Colmore, 1111 Mooresville Pike, Columbia, TN. 38401 615-404-7498 lcolmore@aol.com.

New Grace Stationery



Inspired by the oil painting “Grace Episcopal Church, 1875”, donated by Pat Mayo, artist and Grace member, the Mission Council has adopted this new letterhead design updating the current stationery for the church. The original painting is displayed in Faith Hall over the fireplace. If you haven’t seen this painting by Pat, please visit Faith Hall and enjoy all three of her donated and displayed artworks.

Shopping for The Well



I am not a fan of going to the grocery store. I know that some people like to walk up and down the aisles and read the labels. Not me. I make a list, do my shopping, and head home. On my list there is a note that says “Items for The Well.” I check The Well website for what is needed and look for sales.

When I was growing up, our go-to item for days when the grocery budget was low was Kraft Spaghetti. My mom was a widow with three kids and we all thought the noodles with bright red sauce were delicious. Recently, I bought a package and I can say that I am no longer a fan. I never buy that for The Well. I do sometimes buy a Lipton

Chicken Noodle Soup for The Well and myself because that was another family favorite. And it’s

still in my cupboard. In fact, my daughter and granddaughters enjoy it too.

When I am shopping for The Well think of the single parents who do not make enough money to feed their children. I say a prayer for the seniors whose Social Security check cannot cover their basic needs. And remember the person who because of illness or misfortune does not have enough to eat. One in eight people in Tennessee face hunger, according to Feeding America. That is 809,170 people and of them 233,620 are children. These facts help me think of the people The Well serves when I am at the grocery store.

Baskets for donations to The Well are located in Faith Hall and at the entrance to the church. On the last Sunday of each month these items are blessed. Charles Cochran, community outreach liaison for the Mission Council, takes the items to The Well. Some who are not fans of grocery shopping donate a check. Every donation is welcome.

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden

UPDATE: Charles Cochran delivered 101 lbs. of food to The Well in February gathered by our generous Grace Episcopal members. Thanks to each of you.



Susan Browning: Lover of Numbers, Family, and Cats

Susan loves numbers so much that she works at Grace Episcopal Church as the finance administrator. Please don’t be fooled into thinking that she’s tedious or dull, because she isn’t. Her first love is her family, especially her daughters, Lisa and Amanda, and grandson, Damien. When her family is well and at peace, she feels happy.

Susan and Damien share a love of watching horror movies together, an interest she developed in her teen years and has now passed on to Damien. Oh, they don’t tremble or scream in fear when they watch because they’re too busy warning the ‘victims’ of impending danger, as they laugh. One of their favorites to watch each year on Christmas Eve is a scary movie called *Santa Jaws*.

Susan claims that she has six cats, although we suspect that she’s got it backwards; the six cats probably have Susan. Her cats are Reggie, Barry, Dexter, Midnight, Bianca, and Rowena. Susan

explained, “I have loved cats for as long as I can remember. Their purring is a very comforting sound when they ‘bless’ you by sitting in your lap. They are independent little critters and do have some quirks, but I’ve been blessed with several sweethearts over the years. I do all of the feeding and litter box cleaning for all of our ‘babies.’ We (my daughter and grandson and I) enjoy their antics.”

Susan is also a gardener. She loves to plant flowers in the spring; her favorites are impatiens and nasturtiums because they’re pretty and colorful. She has large concrete planters surrounding her patio. She commented, “I get excited when they flourish and continue growing under my care.”

Susan’s also a talented crocheter and tailor. She used to sew all of her own clothes and her daughter’s clothes. She’s made many formal dresses and bridesmaid gowns in the past. Now, she’s limiting her sewing to alterations and repairs.

Susan likes to paint Christmas decorations, front door decorations, and plaques.

So how did Susan come to Grace? When Susan was taking classes at Nashville Tech, Doc Martin was her teacher. (Doc Martin was Fr. Joe’s predecessor as the vicar of Grace.) He needed an administrative assistant at Grace, so he asked Susan to accept the job. She started working in the church office in May of 2012.

Career-wise, she was Director of Finance and Human Resources at the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee for many years and also worked at Legal Aid.

Susan was born in Birmingham, AL, and had a brother named Richard. She later lived in Jacksonville, FL, but eventually found her way to Nashville. Susan has been married but now enjoys her independence. She was raised to worship as a Southern Baptist, but she prefers to worship now as an Episcopalian. She often attends the service online via Facebook live.

Karyl Chastain Beal

This is 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.

Financial and Mission Council Reports

The January financial and Mission Council reports will appear in the April Newsletter, following approval of both reports at this month’s mission council meeting on March 16. An unofficial working meeting was held in February and a business meeting was not held.

Announcement Re: Holy Saturday Liturgy

We will have a brief liturgy at 10:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter. The Grace Chapter of the Daughters of the King will read the lessons and lead the prayers. All are welcome to attend. At the end, those who attend will be asked to process outside to decorate the cross which will have been venerated at the Good Friday service the day before. You may find the service on p. 283 of the Book of Common Prayer.

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

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 Ed. & Children’s Ministry

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

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

