

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 4  
 April 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 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.	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	Noon	Holy Eucharist,
	3:00 p.m.	Father Joe Office Hours
Thur.	9:00 a.m.	Crochet Club

April 23		Third Sunday of Easter
April 25		St. Mark The Evangelist
April 30		Fourth Sunday of Easter
<b>April 30</b>	<b>11:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday Potluck</b>
May 1		St. Peter & St. James, Apostles
<b>May 4</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Ladies Luncheon,</b>
		<b>TBA</b>
May 7		Fifth Sunday of Easter
<b>May 8</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Creative Monday</b>
May 14		Sixth Sunday of Easter
<b>May 14</b>		<b>Mother's Day</b>
<b>May 18</b>		<b>Ascension Day</b>
	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>145<sup>th</sup> Anniv. Celeb.</b>
May 21		Seventh Sunday of Easter
<b>May 22</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Creative Monday</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Mission Council Meeting</b>
May 28		Day of Pentecost
<b>May 29</b>		<b>Memorial Day</b>

## Vicar's Vagaries

### **The Great Fifty Days of Easter**

I want to thank everyone who helped us keep Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so well this year. Whenever you serve the Church, you are serving Christ and helping one another. You have been gracious to visitors and helpful to me and one another. Everyone seems to pitch in well at Grace Church, and the reward is that we get to experience worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Now we are well into the Great Fifty Days of Easter. On Wednesdays in Easter Season, we have special lessons that stress the resurrection of Christ and the new life the Church has in Christ. If you have the opportunity, I recommend that you give the Wednesday noon service a try.

Easter reaches a peak at Ascension Day, which is May 18 this year. That Thursday is two days after the

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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 the members via email and Facebook.

April 22 Earth Day

145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of our church building. We will celebrate our anniversary with a 6:00 Eucharist and dinner in the parish hall. Details will be announced as plans are completed.  
Fr. Joe

### **Chrism Mass on Monday, April 3**

On Monday of Holy Week, I attended the Chrism Mass at Christ Church Cathedral. The Bishop preached and celebrated the Eucharist, and he led the clergy of the Diocese of Tennessee in the renewal of our ordination vows. You may read these vows on pp. 531-532 of the Book of Common Prayer. While I made my vows at my ordination on January 17, 1987, it is a very strengthening experience to renew these vows in Holy Week each year with my fellow clergy. At this service, the bishop also consecrates the oils that we use for chrismation of new Christians and for healing. At baptism, each new Christian is anointed with the oil of chrism and “marked as Christ’s own forever.” Whenever I anoint someone and pray for healing, I use the oil consecrated by the bishop at this service in Holy Week. In a way, the priesthood of all clergy and the marking of every follower of Christ as belonging to him come out of what happens in Holy Week and Easter. In other words, Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection are the source of our new life in Christ and the ministry of all the ordained in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

The clergy vested and processed into the cathedral while we sang the entrance hymn. The music was exquisite, and the ordained people of the diocese sing well. By far my favorite hymn was the sequence hymn, Hymn 163 in our hymnal. There were a few other people attending the service, but most of us were clergy. You could come next year if you want. I think you would enjoy the service and find it inspiring.

After the service, the cathedral graciously hosted the clergy of the diocese for a simple lunch, giving us a chance to visit with one another before we got too deep into Holy Week. It was a very good start to Holy Week.

Fr. Joe

### **Recent Attendance at Grace**

Our Easter attendance was 56, which is by far the most we have had since 2019. It was a real boost to our morale to have a practically full church. We had 23 online participants, which means we are reaching at least 79 people; and some of them are not even in Middle Tennessee. I couldn't have imagined having services online back in 2019. A little thing like a worldwide pandemic can really change your perspective on things.

Fr. Joe

### **Path to Chalice Bearer**

To serve our Lord Jesus and our brothers and sisters in Christ is a different path for each of us.

My path to service as a Chalice Bearer began one Sunday morning not long after LaRue and I began attending services at Grace Church. Entering Faith Hall that morning, I was abducted by Craig DeMoss, our Verger. “You will be crucifer today,” he said. Having no idea what a crucifer was, I went with Craig to the sacristy and dressed in an alb and rope cincture. Showing me the cross, he said I would lead Lynn Rieger and Fr. Doc Martin to the altar, reverence and put the cross in its place next to the lectern. All was well, except I did not know the cross had a front or back and stowed the cross backwards. No one noticed until Craig faced it correctly before beginning the first reading. Leading the procession and recession that day was a profound experience.

Not long after LaRue and I formally joined the Episcopal Church at Grace, Fr. Doc Martin invited me to train as a chalice bearer. Not really understanding the importance and enormity of the position, it took me a year to decide and here's why. First, there were thoughts of unworthiness, then worry of doing the job for attention only. You are at the altar reading prayers and assisting with the eucharist in front of an audience. Fr. Doc reminded me that the congregation was not an audience but participants. Last, the job put me very close to God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit at the altar.

Craig DeMoss and Bryan Young, both vergers, trained and made me comfortable in the position which is an enormous responsibility. There is a great

feeling of peace and awe at the sanctification of the elements creating the Body and Blood by the power of the Holy Spirit. You can feel this every time you serve at the altar. It is also helpful to remember you are bringing the gifts of God to the people of God with the love of God. To me, this is a very profound and moving experience.

Anyone feeling the slightest calling to this ministry should talk to me, Chuck Warnick, or Fr. Joe for information and encouragement.

Jerry Schmelzer

### **Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!**

Text: Latin, 14th century

Tune: Lyra Davidica, 1708

One of the joys of Easter Sunday is the return of the word “alleluia” to our liturgy! It is a word that means “God be praised,” and is the same in every language.

A technique used by many authors of hymns is to describe an event that happened in the past as if it were happening today. It helps us understand that, just as God worked in the lives of believers two thousand years ago, he is working in our lives today. The hymn “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” is a perfect example of this. As we sing, we are taken back over two millennia as witnesses of the resurrection, and we are made aware that, even though the resurrection happened one time, it is an ongoing event. We are called today to live out the resurrection, to follow our risen Lord in the newness of life, and to lift our Alleluias in praise. **Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Deanie Moore, Director of Music Director

### **Yes, we did it!**

We had the most successful pancake supper ever. Asking for donations instead of setting a fixed price I think was divinely inspired.

The average amount for our pancake dinner was around \$200 dollars, this time Grace received over \$400 dollars. Truly the Lord was with us.

It couldn't have happened if it wasn't for the people of Grace who had everything set up and ready, table cloths, butter, and syrup ready to receive the hungry

flock of Grace members, friends, and neighbors who filled Faith Hall to the max.

In the kitchen Sammy Isbell was cooking hordes of sausages, while Bill Rieger was mixing up pancake batter, and Jerry Schmelzer and I were flipping those flap jacks faster than a flitter. Sammy was handing out pancakes and sausage as fast as we could cook them.

The four of us and everyone else who helped set up, serve, and clean up afterward functioned as a well-oiled team. You'd think we had done this before; that's because we had. Serving Grace is a blessing many of us have enjoyed for some time; yet some of our helpers were new among our ranks. All are welcome to do their part.

When the Lord is with us, everything works!  
Robert Chapman, Congregational Life Liaison

### **Treasury Report for January 2023**

January brought revenues of \$8,916.00 which fell slightly shy of its \$9,016.22 in expenses. It includes the adjustment to balances related to a full pledge amount being received in the Fall. Following is the general breakdown of funds, and the detailed information on accounts is attached.

#### **Finances for January 2023 are as follows:**

Pledged Offerings:	\$13,115.00
Plate Offerings:	\$948.00
Memorial Fund:	\$50.00
Checking/savings account adjustment:	-\$5,625.00
Other Special Offerings:	\$262.00
Reimbursement from Vendors:	\$41.00
Facilities Rental:	\$125.00

<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$8,916.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$9,016.22</b>
<b>January Net Total:</b>	<b>-\$100.45</b>

#### **Banking Balances:**

First Horizon Checking Account:	\$7,582.78
First Horizon Savings Account:	\$48,295.78

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

Organ Fund:	\$23,500.00
Building Fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated Fund:	\$4,139.63

Interest earned: \$6.15  
**Total Available Funds, plus savings:** **\$55,878.56**  
 David Thomas, Treasurer

**January Mission Council Minutes**

January 25, 2023

**Attendance:** Father Joseph Davis, Carol Martinez (Sr. Warden), David Thomas (Treasurer), Charles Cochran, Peggy Roberts, Robert Chapman, and Will Pomeroy. Fr. Joe recognized a quorum was present and gave an opening prayer.

**Scribe’s Report:** Chuck Warnick: Minutes for December 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report:** David Thomas sent the November financial reports to the mission council members. Please see the specific reports for line-item analysis. Summary:

Category	For the Month of December 2023	Year to Date as of 12/31/2023
Revenue:	\$ 9,430.00	\$ 112,198.00
Expenses:	11,548.61	114,778.00
Net:	-\$2,118.61	-\$2,580.00

David shared the discovery of overpayments for Fr. Joe’s health insurance which were mistakenly billed for Fr. Joe plus family instead of Fr. Joe + one. Grace should be receiving credits on the upcoming billings to make the correction. Year-end financials will be updated, reflecting the reduction of the premiums and the overpayment. Further, David shared that Grace should be receiving funds from the Diocese for organ repairs. This should result in a break-even status for our financials for 2022.

After discussion, the Treasurer’s report was accepted.

With the rise in interest rates, the Mission Council directed the Finance Committee to investigate a bond or a CD for the organ funds currently in savings.

David presented the 2023 Proposed Budget for consideration. It was noted that the proposed budget

included a line item for Divine Swine in 2023. Robert Chapman volunteered to chair a committee for this activity and will recruit help to conduct the event. After discussion and modifications, Charles Cochran moved to accept the budget as modified. Will Pomeroy seconded the motion. The budget was unanimously approved. Further, the line item for the Financial Administrator was corrected, with a 2022 base of \$6,000 and a 2023 budget amount of \$6,600. Total Revenue budgeted for 2023 is \$112,198.00, with Total Expenses of \$114,778 and an expected Net Deficit of \$2,580.00

Quotes for cleaning service providers will be sought by Carol Martinez and presented to the Mission Council for consideration.

**Stewardship:** Carol Martinez reported that a new Stewardship Chair is needed. The 2022 Campaign is officially closed.

**Vicar’s Report:** Fr. Joe reported on the Annual Diocesan Convention held on Friday and Saturday, January 20-21, 2023. Carol Martinez and Chuck Warnick served as delegates. The presentations and sermons were uplifting. John Harvey was elected to serve on the Standing Committee. Inquirers Class is continuing to meet.

**Senior Warden’s Report:** Carol Martinez Fr. Joe’s Letter of Agreement must be updated. It is overdue for review. Carol Martinez will vigorously pursue this with the Canon to the Ordinary.

**Jr. Warden’s Report:** Bill Rieger Carol Martinez reported that Bill will conduct research to select a new cleaning company.

**Liaison Reports:** Carol Martinez stressed the need to recruit members for service in these ministries. The 2023 Ministry chairs are indicated below, with their reports.

- Children’s Ministry – Will Pomeroy
  - o Children’s Church is going well, with dedicated support from members serving as teachers and committee members.
- Communications – Peggy Roberts
  - o Suggestions for the fresh look for Grace Church’s stationery were presented and well-received by the Mission Council. Carol, Peggy, and Fr. Joe will make the final decision for the fresh look.

Community Outreach – Charles Cochran

- Gifts for three families were delivered during the Christmas season. They were well received, and the families were very grateful. The Well continues to need support and donations.

Congregational Life – Robert Chapman

- Divine Swine will be next on the list. The Mission Council would like to review a plan at their next meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

With no further business, Fr. Joe closed the meeting with a blessing.

Chuck Warnick, Scribe

**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>,



**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