

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 7  
 July 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 & Continuing Events

Sun.	10 AM	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 AM	Facebook Live Service
Tues. & Fri.	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
Wed.	10:00 AM	Daughters of The King (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed.)
	Noon	Holy Eucharist
	11:00 – 3 PM	Father Joe, Office Hrs.
Thur.	9:00 AM	Crochet Club
Thur.	9:00 AM	Men’s Coffee Clutch, Grecian Family Restaurant

**NOTE: Children’s Church is on Break in August.**

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### Events & Dates of Notes

7/24/2023 12:04 PM

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.

July 22		St. Mary Magdalene
<b>July 23</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
July 25		St. James The Apostle
July 26	Noon	Holy Eucharist w. Healing
	6:00 PM	Mission Council Meeting
<b>July 30</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Children’s Church</b>
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday Brunch</b>
Aug. 2	Noon	Holy Eucharist
<b>Aug. 3</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Ladies Luncheon,</b> <b>Faith Hall</b>
Aug. 6		Transfiguration
Aug. 6	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
Aug. 9	10:00 AM	Daughters of The King
Aug. 15		St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ

### Vicar’s Vacation and Continuing Education

I will be on vacation from August 7 to August 21, and I will be doing a week of study on issues relating to my service as your priest and how I might better pursue my calling from God to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. In consultation with our senior warden and others, I am working out plans that will include a course of reading and independent study on some combination of these topics: preaching, the Bible, theology, evangelism, and pastoral care. When I come back, I will report on what I have learned.

I will be back at Grace on Wednesday, August 30 to celebrate the noon Eucharist. I hope to see you then or on Sunday, September 3.

Fr. Joe



## Vicar's Vagaries

"Like living stones, be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (I Peter 2:5)

In the Church, every member is like a stone built into the temple of Christ's body on earth. Each stone is beautiful, and they all fit together according to God's plan. Only when we love one another as Christ loved us do we manifest the beauty God intends for us to show forth in the world.



Father Joe

### Flowers for All

The Altar Guild/Flower Guild would like to thank all of you who have made contributions for the Easter lilies and the Christmas poinsettias. Those flowers always make our sanctuary more beautiful for each of those seasons. We also take special requests for funerals, weddings, baptisms, or memorials for birthdays, anniversaries or a departed loved one.

However, some may not know that anyone can contribute to the flower fund at any time. We on the Altar Guild do our best to have either flowers or greenery at the altar each Sunday. Mostly our members either arrange or buy a pot of flowers at their own cost.

We would like to encourage anyone who would like to contribute to the general flower fund to please do

so. If writing a check, please put "Flower Fund" in the memo area. If giving cash, it can be given to any Mission Council or Altar Guild member with the direction to use it accordingly. Any amount would be appreciated though if given for a particular reason, due to the cost of flowers at this point, it takes \$75.00 to \$100.00 to make two large arrangements.

Thanks in advance for any contributions being considered.

Linda Colmore, Altar Guild/Flower Guild

### Hymn Gems

Several of you have asked where I find information about the hymns in these articles. Over the years I have collected many books about hymns, some scholarly, and some inspirational. There is a series titled "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan that is a particular favorite. These essays focus on the authors and composers, and the life events that lead to the hymns they wrote. Also, most hymnals have companion volumes which give valuable information about the contents of their hymnals.

There are two websites which I use often. The first is [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org).

There is a wealth of information on this site, and it is fairly easy to navigate. If you search for a composer or author, you can find a brief biography, a listing of everything they have written, and even what hymnals they are in. You can search for hymns that have particular scripture references, for audio clips, and there are arrangements you can download and print.

My other favorite website is from the United Methodist Church. Google [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org), click on the lines in the upper right corner, and when the box drops down click on Worship Planning. Once you have done that, go down the list to History of Hymns. The articles are filled with background information, what was going on in the world at the time, spiritual significance, and musical instruction.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to look up some of the hymns which we sing on Sundays. Let me know what you find out!

Deannie Moore, Music Director

## **What Happens at Grace** **Before the Church Bell Rings**

Sometime around ten am every Sunday the bell rings at Grace Episcopal Church and the service begins. Have you ever wondered what happens to make sure that the church is ready to go? Here is a condensed version of the preparation for the Sunday morning service at Grace.

Some time on Sunday between 8:30 and 9 am the regulars, John Harvey, David Thomas, and Charles Cochran, arrive. Dave grinds the coffee at his house and makes the first pot. John buys the doughnuts - sometimes at Donut Palace and other times at Daylight Donuts. Charles Cochran supplies bottled water for everyone's drinking pleasure and checks on the status of The Well items.

Deanie Moore is always one of the early morning people. She heads for the organ and starts warming up the instrument and making sure that the hymns are correctly listed on the board. Sometimes members of the choir join her for practice.

Lynn Rieger and Susan Austin often arrive early to prepare for the children's church. I arrive early - if I am not supplying transportation for one of our members - and I usually have items to copy or other church business to deal with.

The conversation in the room often centers around sports - a favorite topic of the early morning guys. But not for long, everyone has other tasks to get ready for the main event. John is in charge of getting the bulletins ready (that job begins earlier in the week when Fr. Joe, Deanie Moore, and Karyl Chastain Beal prepare the weekly publication). I am sending text notes to Fr. Joe and Karyl about what to include in the bulletin. Fr. Joe reviews the final copy and makes sure that the grammar is perfect, and every Oxford comma is in the correct place. Sometimes John copies the bulletin and folds it on Saturday nights, other times Fr. Joe brings the copies to the church.

Dave needs to make sure that the camera is ready to record. Charles is in charge of the ushers - usually he, Bill Rieger, or Robert Chapman serves in that role. The usher on duty enters the church early to welcome any visitors and hand each person a bulletin.

And of course, everyone in Faith Hall is ready to jump up and say hello to visitors or those who have not been to Grace recently when the door opens.

John also reviews the prayer list that is prepared by Fr. Joe and Karyl Chastain Beale. Sheila Flynn, president of Daughters of the King, supplies names of the people who need prayers.

Erin Harvey or, when she is not able to attend, her dad puts out the flags, turns on the lights and fans, and makes sure that there is a fresh cup of water next to Father Joe's chair. The temperature of the building is controlled remotely by Bill Rieger.

Peggy Roberts makes certain that cards for newcomers are in the pews and that the pencils are sharp. Sometimes she leaves the church briefly during the service to make certain that hot coffee will be ready for everyone when they go to Faith Hall after church.

During the weekend Linda Colmore, head of the altar guild, or a member of her group (Mimi DeMoss, Michele Gibson O'Grady, and Teri Mai), comes to church to clean the altar area, set up for communion, and make certain flowers or a plant is in place and get everything polished and ready for the service.

During the week Bill Rieger has mowed the lawn and pulled weeds often with help from Sheila Flynn or Susan Austin. Grace has a cleaning person who cleans the Church and Faith Hall on a biweekly basis.

Fr. Joe arrives around 9:30 and focuses on the service and getting ready for the ten am bell ringing. Jerry Schmelzer serves as chalice bearer. He always asks his wife LaRue to straighten his collar and make certain he is ready to go. Chuck Warnick is also a chalice bearer. Bryson Farmer serves as acolyte twice a month. That group quietly gathers in prayer, walks to the front door, and the church service begins.

Grace Episcopal Church is fortunate to have so many people who help with preparation for the Sunday service. If you would like to join the service preparation team, please reach out to me, Carol Martinez, Senior Warden.

It is quite possible that I have forgotten a task or a person who is part of the early morning preparation. If that's the case, there will be a correction in the August issue. Thanks so much to everyone for all you do for Grace Episcopal Church.

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden

## Grace Faces Directory Changeups

1. Add in Mamma Flo's new Phone Number, **615.881.2409**
2. Steve Wallace and Myrna D. Jones have asked to have their church membership at Grace Church.
3. We will let you know of other changes as they happen.

### Daughters of The King

Grace Notes regrets lack of space in the Newsletter in May. In an effort to give more complete coverage of Spring Assembly of the DOK, please enjoy this beautiful poem and majestic Luna drawing shared by Sheila Flynn, DOK president.

Pardon me, Pilgrim, by Dana Gioia



To a Luna Moth

Pardon me, pilgrim.  
I forgot your name When  
you arrived last night at  
our front door, A baneful  
vagrant from the stormy  
skies, your broad wings  
marked with two  
ferocious eyes. But your

fierce gaze proved beauty in disguise. A dusty  
sweetness under fictive eyes. Giant of your fragile  
race, you came by gusty happenstance and  
nothing more. Yet still I wondered what had  
brought you here so late when I, too, wandered  
aimlessly. But mute with wonder, how could I  
inquire the secrets of your lunar embassy?

### Meet Les Bennett: Athlete, Singer, Teacher, Father, & Grandfather

In 2017, Les moved to Spring Hill from California to be near his son and daughter. Shortly after, he attended Grace Episcopal Church, and at once felt a

connection. He credits Father Joe with showing him that he belongs here. (His mother moved here with him, but she died in 2018 at age 94.)

Les was born in Lafayette, Indiana, but since his father was both a minister and a college professor, they moved from time to time. At first, they were at a Methodist Church, then, they switched to Nazarene churches, but eventually, the family found the Episcopal Church in Apple Valley, California, where they stayed.

After high school, Les attended Pasadena College where he played football, both defensive end and quarterback, and received his bachelor's degree. Then, he joined the Army and served 6 years as a specialist 4<sup>th</sup> class in California.

Les loved learning, so after he left the army, he earned his master's degree at UCLA in English and British literature. He even started work on his PhD; however, that's when he abandoned that dream for a higher calling, raising his children.

Along the way, Les was married and had 2 children, a son, and a daughter. After his divorce, he had full custody of his children so being a father became his priority. They lived in the high desert in Apple Valley for twenty-six years. During that time, Les also taught AP English and British literature for the Apple Valley School district.

One of the most memorable moments of Les's life was on a field trip when he was chaperoning students in the San Marcos Square in Venice, Italy. He was walking down a street; the sun was shining, and he had an aha moment that brought a special peace to him and restored his faith.

Les has another talent, singing. He's a bit modest about it, but he looks forward to singing in the choir at Grace.

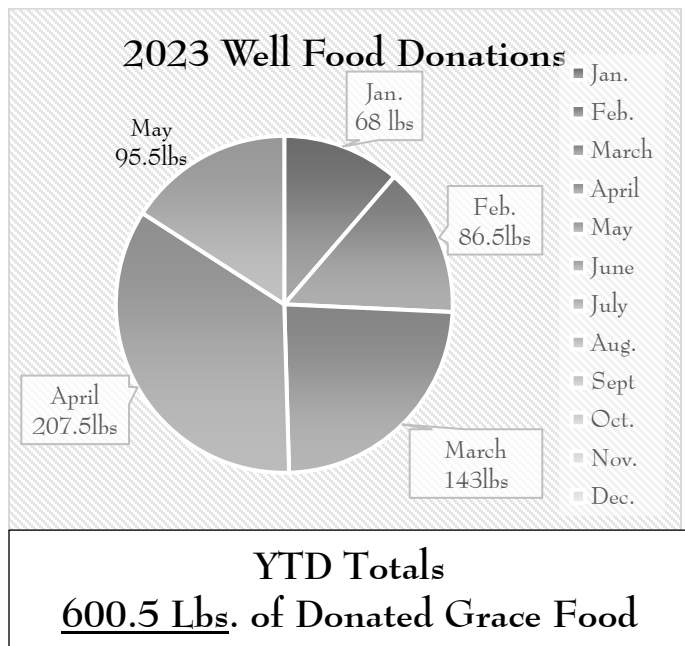
About 5 years ago, Les had a stroke that has put a few limitations on him. You may notice him walking carefully up to the altar with his cane, but he doesn't mind because he says he's been blessed by having his children and grandchildren around him. Father Joe has been especially wonderful during this time, visiting him and discussing literature with him, something they both enjoy.

As for a favorite Bible verse, without hesitation, Les can recite Romans 12, verses 1 and 2. (He can recite more than that, but for now, he stopped at 2).

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but ye may be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

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.*



### **Grateful Heart**

Being grateful and thankful can revolutionize one’s life and can be an opportunity for growth.

Being thankful brings peace and God’s will, plans, purpose, and direction.

God has given us the power to overcome-----a grateful heart.

Submitted by Stana Chapman

### **Recent Changes to Grace Website**

Several updates have been made recently to the Grace website (<https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org>) which may be of interest to church members.

More photographs have been added to our front page, and changes have been made to improve the readability of blog posts in the “You Are Invited to Join Us” section. Entire posts will now be displayed instead of just the first sentence, and distracting “metadata” such as author name and date have been removed. These changes should make the page more visually appealing and professional.

A page about our lay ministries was added several months ago, and it was significantly overhauled in June. We have a special blog with updates on our lay ministries on this page. Photos of the children’s artwork (originally posted on our Facebook group) have been added to the “Children’s Church” page under “Ministries.” I invite members to send news items and photographs related to their lay ministries to me for inclusion on our website.

The news page has also been restructured to put the most important pages at the top. The information about social distancing has also been archived and removed from the news page as we are now, thankfully, in a post-pandemic world. “Latest News” has been changed to “Recent News.”

A link to the Events Calendar has been added to the front page, and calendar items have been added to the calendar for important holy days through the end of 2050 (by which time I hope someone else will have taken over our website!). We will add more items and update the existing ones. If you have a G-mail or Outlook calendar, you can subscribe to it.

Finally, a new page (<https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org/updated-common-lectionary-readings/>) has been added that shows the lectionary (track 2) readings for Sundays and holy days. This page includes the introductions (“A reading from the book of Genesis”) for readers, information about liturgical colors, and links to other informative sites. This page is built upon an open source webservice created by an ACNA priest and computer programmer who lives “just up the road” in Nashville. Coding this page has been a fun side project for me and I hope it will prove useful to you.

It is an honor and blessing to continue to serve Grace as your webmaster, and I encourage further suggestions for improvements and additions to our website. I also would love to share more information about the “guts” of our website with anyone who would like to share this responsibility with me.

James Dallas

### **Treasury Report for May 2023**

May was the best month of 2023 and the first with a positive balance. The month brought in revenues of \$16,205.00, which exceeded our \$8,300.91 in expenses. For the first 5 months of 2023, we had a monthly negative balance. May was not only a positive balance but leaves us a cumulative balance for the year of \$3,649.42. The general breakdown of funds and the detailed information on accounts follows.

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

Pledged Offerings:	\$14,645.00
Plate Offerings:	\$806.00
Priest Discretionary Fund:	\$604.00
Facilities Rental:	\$125.00

<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$16,205.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$8,300.00</b>
<b>May Net Total:</b>	<b>\$7,904.09</b>

#### **Banking Balances:**

First Horizon Checking Account:	\$12,132.82
First Horizon Savings Account:	\$48,330.70

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

Organ Fund:	\$23,500.00
Building Fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated Fund:	\$4,163.43
Interest earned:	\$17.27

**Total Available Funds, plus savings:** **\$60,463.52**

David Thomas, Treasurer

### **May Mission Council Minutes**

May 24, 2023

Fr. Joe gave an opening prayer.

**Scribe’s Report** – Will Pomeroy is filling in for Chuck Warnick. The minutes for the April 2023 Annual Meeting and the minutes for the Mission

Council Meeting of April 19, 2023, were reviewed and accepted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** David Thomas sent the April financial reports to the mission council members. Please see the specific reports for line-item analysis. Monthly reports are correct. There were no YTD numbers reported. Summary:

We have been up every month this year compared to last year, but we are suffering from lower than expected plate income. Carol said some plate givers have transitioned to pledgers. The YTD numbers are not correct right now, so the minutes are not reflecting the YTD numbers.

The Flower Fund needs to be updated to the congregation, so people know what’s in that fund.

Carol – the Easter numbers were spread out over 2 months.

After discussion, the Treasurer’s reports were accepted.

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

Asst. Treasurer has accepted an appointment and will start in the fall.

Father Joe visited Margaret Lee and Cynthia Griffin and took them communion.

New prospective members have been visiting, and communication has been good.

Diocese will offer a grant of \$2,000 for a sabbatical for all clergy. The diocese will encourage congregations to give members of the clergy an extra week of paid leave this year.

Father Joe suggested the number of services may need to be changed if the building gets to be 80% full, but we are not there yet. Parking could become an issue, but it is not right now.

**Senior Warden’s Report:** Carol Martinez

The FB group has many commenters and the people who post the most are the ones who watch online.

The MCMOD leader gets notified three times. Whoever is an Usher needs to have his or her phone handy in case of emergency. Emergency calls should be made from the landline, if possible.

Should the church hire a WCSO SRO to help with a security plan?

We had an inconclusive discussion about the sound system for our service broadcasts.

**Jr. Warden's Report:** Bill Rieger

Iron work needs to be completed for the floor grate. Bill is trying to find a local contractor to fix it as one contractor said it is past its lifetime. He is still looking for someone who can repair our grate.

Bill is looking at fixing the HVAC input system. Church cleaning takes place every other Thursday.

Bill is refinishing the repaired sacristy door.

### **Liaison Reports:**

Children's Ministry – Will Pomeroy

- In June, children's church will be held on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. In July, it will be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. No CC in August.
- We are changing the curriculum and will be covering some of the stories in the Old Testament.
- We decorate the room for each lesson.
- We will be painting this Sunday.
- Williamson County Schools are getting out for the summer this week. Maury County Schools are already out.

Communications – Peggy Roberts

- New member contact was mostly online. She has drafted a welcome letter for new online members. She reported four mailed communications and phone calls.
- Peggy is still collecting articles for the June issue of *Grace Notes*.

Outreach – Charles Cochran

- We have given five hundred thirty-eight lbs. through May 5 to The Well.
- We got a Thank You note from The Well.

Congregational Life – Robert Chapman

- Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Susan Browning is helping our people take the diocesan course on protecting God's children.

Next Mission Council Meetings: June 21, July 19, August 16.

Fr. Joe closed the meeting with a blessing at 7:58 pm. Respectfully, Will Pomeroy, Fill-in Scribe

### **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 Education & Children's Ministry

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

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

