

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

Grace Notes

Volume V, Issue 1
January 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, John Harvey, 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

Notes Articles

Deanie Moore Thank You	Pg. 1
2021 Annual Reports	
Vicar's Vagaries	Pg. 1-4
Sr. Warden	Pg. 4-5
Jr. Warden	Pg. 5-6
Communications	Pg. 6
Children's Ministries	Pg. 6
Congregational Life	Pg. 6-7
Christmas Outreach	Pg. 7
"Another Day is Dawning"	Pg. 7-8

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.

Jan. 25	Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Jan. 30	Bishop John Bauerschmidt visits Grace
Feb. 24	St. Matthias the Apostle
Feb. 27	The Last Sunday after Epiphany
Mar. 2	Ash Wednesday

Dear Family of Grace,
There are no words to express how grateful I am for the love and care shown to me and my family over the last months. Your prayers sustained us then and continue now to hold us up in the uncertain days ahead.

Thank you for including me in this family, and for allowing both Tom and me to worship with you through music.

With love and grateful prayers,

Deanie Moore

Vicar's Report, 2021

January 9, 2022

At our annual meeting last year, most of us thought that with vaccinations becoming available and springtime coming in a few months, the pandemic would recede and church services and activities would be able to resume soon as they had been before Covid 19. However, after a brief reprieve, the Delta and then the Omicron variants of Covid 19 have led us to continue to follow Covid protocols up to the present moment; and we will need to do so for at least a while into the future. On the other hand, we have adapted and grown from our experience, and we are doing many of the things we used to do before Covid 19. We are just doing them carefully so that we will not get or spread the disease.

Last January we welcomed two new members to the mission council: Laurie McNutt and Will Pomeroy, both of whom have made valuable contributions to the life and ministry of our church. Also, Peggy Roberts began serving as clerk of the mission council; and she faithfully provides the minutes to our meetings between issues of *Grace Notes*, which she types up and does layout for. Carol Martinez has provided igniting sparks and discipline as editor of *Grace Notes* and has served another term diligently as stewardship chair.

We began the year with hymns being played but not sung. At Easter, we began singing the hymns with our masks on, and we find that it is not so bad. My glasses fog up a good bit, so I have to make adjustments; and I assume others have similar problems. But it fortifies the soul to hear each other sing, even if through a mask.

John Harvey and Susan Austin did a great deal of the work so we could complete some much-needed amendments of the Grace Mission Bylaws, and Peggy Roberts helped Susan check them for accuracy.

We had a memorial service last winter for both John and Marie Aliano, which was broadcast on Facebook. As an indication of how helpful this online means of including people in worship has been, we had fifty-one people watching the broadcast of the service, which seventeen persons—mostly family members—attended in person.

In late spring or early summer, three households moved out of state. These were Richard and Marsha Hawarah, Ed and Toni Strong, and Flo Kline. Flo continues to attend our services online. We miss these faithful members who have done so much to shape the character and personality of this church in the last decade, and we hope that the memory of their examples will inspire us to continue faithfully in hope in our worship of Christ and the service of his Church.

We have had no potluck lunches or dinners all year, no coffee hours, and not even a reception when the bishop made his visitation last February. There was no clergy silent retreat. Creative Mondays and Ladies' Lunches have been put on hold. Diocesan convention was online last January,

but so far, the plan is to have the convention in person this year.

Missy Daily is the one new member who joined Grace this past year. [The last sentence is inserted as a correction on the report which I gave orally at the annual meeting.] Two new babies have been born: Leon Mott, on August 30, to his parents Lauren and Robert Mott, and Braxton Pomeroy, on July 12, to his parents Will and Michelle. We rejoice in the birth of these new babies.

Some of our members have had Covid 19, but many more have had family members and close friends that were quite ill with the virus over the past year. Some of us lost friends or loved ones to this disease. The isolation and curtailment of social activities have forced our congregation to adapt in many ways, and our fellowship with one another and our communion in Christ mean more to most of us than they ever have. We miss the children, and we miss those we have not seen or heard from recently. Several of our members are watching services online, as well as many people in places as far away as Memphis and Vermont. We look forward to the time when all of us can get back in the habit of regular church attendance in person, and when we can have the social gatherings that help us stay connected with one another.

Senior warden, John Harvey, and junior warden, Susan Austin, and some others have come by the church office often to check the mail and to take care of church business matters. With the completion of Ed Strong's term as treasurer, David Thomas has stepped in to serve as our treasurer, as well as our videographer.

Linda Colmore has led the altar guild in this very unusual year. Laurie McNutt has helped a great deal by doing most of the altar guild work on our Wednesday noon Eucharists, which resumed in the early summer. Our weekly Zoom Bible studies on the Sunday lectionary ended with the resumption of these services.

During the time when I helped my father through his bout of Covid 19 in March, John Harvey and others kept the church services going smoothly and welcomed our two supply priests that served during that time.

Our children's church sessions and classes have been suspended through the year, but at special times Lynn Rieger, with help and support from Diann Schneider, has prepared packets of worksheets for our children. Also, Lynn has completed Level 1 Training for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and we are proud of her for taking that course to help her in her work for children.

Karyl Beal has worked with me and Deanie Moore to prepare the bulletins each week. I was going to say she has worked "closely" with us, but to be truthful, she has worked at a distance, from home, as Deanie and I have worked from home to get the liturgical planning done by means of the internet. Her help on these bulletins and also the prayers of the people has been invaluable to me. So has John Harvey's work, as he is often ably assisted by his daughter Erin, in copying and folding the service bulletins and printing the prayers of the people.

Mission council has met all year by Zoom. One great accomplishment was amending the bylaws so that Zoom attendance at video conference meetings is as valid as in person attendance, along with some other improvements and updates to the bylaws.

Carol Martinez led a good stewardship campaign with an excellent group of speakers this year, but budget cuts are necessary for the coming year, which I will leave to our treasurer to discuss. We are cutting our expenses even more this year, and many of us have increased our pledge. One good development is the increase of online giving. Every way of giving helps. I refuse to complain about this congregation's giving because if it takes six horses to pull a carriage comfortably, and one horse is removed, it is cruel to flog harder the remaining five if the carriage doesn't run as fast as it did when it had six horses. The best response to people moving away or not being as involved in church as they were before is to be gracious, intelligent, and prayerful about attracting new members and developing our own gifts and talents in the service of Christ. I ask all of us to resolve to do this in the coming year.

Sheila Flynn has done a fine job as president of our chapter of the Daughters of the King since the departure of our former president, Toni Strong. Sheila also contributes greatly to the landscaping around our church, which is in itself a form of prayer, a way of showing love for the place where we come together to worship our Lord.

Thanks to all who are stepping up to read at our services and to all who are singing the hymns. You are showing that Covid 19 can't keep us down as long as we practice habits of safety. The word of God must be proclaimed, and we must sing his praises, no matter what.

We have tried to be steady but versatile in the past year. When David Thomas needed to be away, James Dallas stepped in to be videographer for the day, and all went well. Sharing the duties and bringing others into service is an important aspect of leadership that we must not forget.

As junior warden, Susan Austin has kept our church inside and out in good repair and has organized workdays to share the joy of caring for this lovely place. The rest of us try to hold her back from extreme danger, and we may be making some headway. I heard her softening in her determination to get on the roof anytime it looked as though she needed to take care of something up there. We are hoping she will serve another term as junior warden, so we definitely cannot afford for her to take big risks. Like the Titans, we need to keep as many of our players as we can off the injured reserve list.

We are all saddened by the death just before Christmas of Deanie's husband, Tom Moore. We have known and loved him as someone who would come to our parish hall and pick up Deanie after church and would always come and help us out for special services when his Baptist Church congregation could spare him. I will never forget his bassoon and saxophone music when we weren't even singing during Holy Week. While he was an accomplished musician, his focus was not on musical virtuosity, but on helping us glorify the Lord in whatever musical offering we were able to make. I may not know much about heaven, but I imagine it's a place where Tom's bassoon and

saxophone reeds never split, and where his lip and his lungs are always in perfect shape to play his wind instrument of choice at any time. For the time being, Deanie, we appreciate you, and we thank you for your musical gifts to this congregation, and we are truly sorry for your loss.

I may be officially a part-time vicar, but a person can never be a part-time priest. Nor are you part-time members. We are all full-time, living members of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only do we not retire from that status; we hope to enjoy it eternally. I want to give special thanks to one member who has shown us an inspiring example of what it is to be a full-time member of Grace Church. That's John Harvey. At a time when we needed leadership, he stepped in to fill an unexpired term, and then to serve a whole three year term of his own, and has been senior warden all along the way. Thank you, John, and I hope we can find other ways of helping you continue to serve Christ and the people he loves in the near future. I think John will still read lessons and prayers whenever he is needed, and it would be hard to stop him from bringing donuts; but there may be some new areas of service you might want to explore, and we aim to make straight your path.

I apologize for this report's length, but I felt obligated to tell the story of our past year, and I wanted to mention by name as many of the key leaders and followers as I found room for. I hate that I could not mention you all by name or this report would be even longer; but I promise you, if God has a refrigerator, he has a picture of each of you up on his refrigerator door. He knows you all by name, and he loves you more than anyone else.

On January 17, I will have been ordained as a priest for 35 years. I know it's hard for you to believe that such a youthful and spry man could have been a priest that long. I just tell people I was in my early teens when the bishop ordained me. In those years, I have been the rector of three churches, an assistant at two, steady supply priest at four, and vicar of just this one. I have known many fine, devoted people in all of these churches. Within each of these people, there was hidden treasure buried by God himself, and sometimes, I was able to see that treasure as it was offered in the service of

God's kingdom. As for the people of Grace Church, I don't want to jinx you, or tell you something that would undermine your humility, but I will say that you appear to me to be serious about the business of loving God and loving one another, as well as reaching out to others, and you aren't trying to do too much else that a church doesn't really need to be doing.

I can think of no better closing in this season of Epiphany than to quote St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, Chapter 1. "For this reason, I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." (Ephesians 1: 16-19)

Joseph N. Davis+
Vicar, Grace Episcopal Church

Sr. Warden's Report, 2021

I would like to thank you all for being here today on this First Sunday after the Epiphany. It is a testament to your dedication to the family of Grace Episcopal Church and the Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you will bear with me for a few minutes this morning as I share some thoughts with you. I am going to speak to you in what I would normally consider to be "reverse order" because I want to try to convey these thoughts to you before I lose your attention.

It is often easier and more convenient to take advantage of today's technology and watch the service on our livestream. It has given us a wonderful tool to reach those who may not, for various reasons, be able to attend in person, and for that I am thankful. But I suspect many of those joining us by necessity via the internet would love to be able to be here with us. There is a sense of connectivity and peace we are deprived of when we can't be here in this building together. That is

something we need to cling to with all the strength we can muster. I don't know about you, but I have about had enough of Covid-19 and the horrible effects it has wrought on all of us. As we mourn those we have lost and pray for those still battling its effects, I think about that "wilderness road" and the journey Bishop Bauerschmidt related to us almost two years ago, and the things we have learned along the way. We are still on that journey, and I am convinced that my observation I have shared with a few of you is valid- "We will know what there is to know about this virus when we come out the other side." Our task is to stay focused and remain on the journey; we do not need to become complacent and end up camped on the side of the road. That means using the knowledge we have gained and prudently exploring the path out of the wilderness and sustaining that sense of connectivity so vital to the life of our church family.

This year we hosted two events that gave the community some exposure to this lovely building- a meeting of the Spring Hill Historic Commission, and the Maury County Historical Home Tour. The Home Tour was attended by one hundred sixty-five visitors over a Friday and Saturday. The following weekend we served hot chocolate to spectators outdoors from the church yard during the Spring Hill Christmas Parade. I heard one common comment more than once at these events- "We didn't know this was an active church." Or "Do you have services here?" Or "Do you have a regular priest?" That tells me there is work to do. As Fr. Joe has mentioned, and our treasurer will inform you, we face financial challenges. I'm afraid that is the norm for many churches today. I don't mean to monetize the numbers in the seats, but the reality is there is a number of congregants needed to sustain a healthy church. Reaching that number is part of our stewardship. Planning our journey out of the wilderness will help.

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to have served you during my term. I'm not going to read a list of those I want to thank because I will be here much longer than you want to be. What I will do is try to thank you each personally. I am not going away and will be here if there is anything I can do to help.

Thank you, and Christ's Peace to each of you,
John Harvey, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden's Report 2021

While 2021 did not get us back to "normal", we did make several steps forward and it has been wonderful to see so many of our Grace Church family returning to in-person worship.

What has been normal is the usual maintenance of our building and grounds and how so many of you have been generous with your time and talents to help. That began in mid-February 2021, when numerous days of cold temperatures, freezing rain, sleet and snow laid down up to four inches of ice on every outside surface from the roof to the driveway. Thank you to everyone who showed up to clear the walkways and parking lot, including the kind acts of strangers.

In March, lighting improvements both inside and outside highlighted the beauty of the buildings and added to its safety.

As you may recall, the cross atop our steeple had to be removed in the fall of 2020 when it was discovered that it had deteriorated beyond repair due to the elements. This past March, the new cross was completed and installed thanks to a generous donor.

I want to thank Sheila Flynn for taking the lead again in making our flower gardens look so beautiful. She and Laurie McNutt worked in the gardens this past spring and again in the fall, adding plants and transplanting others. We have received so many compliments this past year on how nice the property looks.

Unfortunately, we had a large expense in July when our A/C unit that services the sanctuary reached the end of its lifespan and had to be replaced. The good thing is that we have now replaced both units and they should last for many years.

In the fall, our generous donor also arranged for a professional arborist to trim our trees and remove limbs that may have caused damage to the buildings or hurt someone. As always, whenever I ask for help with the yardwork, I am not disappointed. I appreciate the helping hands with the fall raking.

It takes a village, or at least a family, to keep a church going. This Junior Warden is so grateful for the family we have at Grace Church.

Susan Austin

Communications Report 2021

The Grace Church website continues to be updated to accurately reflect news and happenings with the church.

We had a great Christmas parade that included community outreach to local citizens serving hot chocolate with multiple church members assisting. Last year, the church hosted the Spring Hill Historical Commission and the Maury Co. Historical Commission that included a special tour of the church, and a Maury County homes tour. After a period of time being out of order, the church bell is now working properly and can be heard on each Sunday.

The city of Spring Hill is in the early stages of planning to reconstruct the intersection of Beechcroft, Hwy 31, and Duplex. The early plans call for Beechcroft to be moved north of the church so that it can properly link up with Duplex and be one 4-way intersection. The plans are early in the process and no firm, date has been set yet for construction.

Will Pomeroy

Christian Education & Children's Ministries Report

As last year, this year has not been a normal year for our Sunday school teachers and the children. It is not easy to find materials that the children can do at home, without the help of a teacher. Lynn Rieger has spent a lot of time looking for educational materials and she has done an amazing job of preparing materials that are easy for the children to complete at home.

The younger children need help from their parents or grandparents, but the older kids can complete the materials on their own.

Families have received education packages for Lent and Easter and also, Advent and Christmas. There were times when putting the packets together that I wished I had Sunday School materials like these when I was a child. It has been a pleasure working with Lynn. The Sunday School program is

an especially important area of the Church. We are fortunate to have a dedicated person to help educate our children. We all look forward to the time when the Children's Church is open on Sundays.

Diann Schneider

Education Chairman

Congregational Life Report 2021

Our congregational life here at Grace has been severely impacted by the Covid pandemic for almost two years now. From fewer communicants attending in-person services, to the Eucharist in one kind only and distributed in a muffin tin, to no coffee hour, no choir, no receptions, etc. I could go on and on, but we all know what all we are missing.

We did manage to hold farewell events for Marsha & Richard Hawarah, for Toni & Ed Strong, and for Mama Flo Kline. The Creative Mondays group met once or twice but was then put on hold. We were excited about starting the "Ladies of Grace" monthly luncheons in August when we had fifteen ladies attending. We had 14 in September and 3 in October, so that activity has been temporarily paused.

A small group did get together in October to tidy up the grounds and plant bulbs for this Spring.

The Mission council continues to meet through Zoom. The Daughters of the King now meet in person, but there are only four of us. The Daughters did have a Christmas luncheon with the December meeting at the presidents' home. We also visited Thistle Farms, an organization that assists women in their recovery from human trafficking, prostitution, or substance abuse. In early December, we visited Bernice Haug, a Grace member, at an assisted living facility.

We were happy that the Art Walk was scheduled for October 23rd, but that was cancelled.

The DOK and the Altar Guild held a cleaning day in November, cleaning the nave, the sanctuary, the kitchen, and Faith Hall, as well as polishing silver and brass for the Altar.

We thank Cheryl Cline for her ten plus years of service in managing the Greeting Card Ministry. She has been faithful in sending birthday and anniversary cards to our members. We welcome and thank Carolyn Warnick who has graciously

accepted the responsibility of this important ministry.

Let's pray for a better 2022 and hope that many, if not all, of these paused activities can be resumed. One thing that the ladies want to do this year is to support and assist Diann Schneider in establishing an Episcopal Church Women's chapter here at Grace.

If you have ideas for new ministries or activities, please share your thoughts with any mission board member.

Laurie McNutt

Christmas Outreach

I think we would all agree that 2021 did not give us that "back to normal" feeling we were wishing for. It seemed we would get a bit of hope, only to have it snatched away. What we could or could not, should or should not do in our daily lives seemed to change on a regular basis, requiring us to adjust on the fly. The Christmas season was not exempted.

In the past, we have supported a Maury County agency by sponsoring families in need at Christmas. Les Bennett had contacted them about our participation for 2021, only to find out they had no families available. I told Les I'd be near their office the following day and would stop in to confirm what they had said. When I met with them the next morning, I was told they indeed had more supporters than families they needed to cover. I suppose that I should have viewed that as a blessing, but definitely not the norm. Time to pivot.

After discussing our options and the dwindling time frame with some of our team, it was decided to explore opportunities to take part with our friends and neighbors at The Well. You will recognize them as the food bank we support on a monthly basis a bit south of us on the opposite side of Main Street. Meeting with the Executive Director, Shelly Sassen, and the Director of Operations, Joseph Knapp, a plan was hatched to adopt six families with The Well providing their contact information and a week's supply of groceries, while Grace would supply Christmas hams, gift cards, and gifts according to each family's needs, as well as delivery to each family.

At this point, the real work began. Contacting the families and finding out their needs was an element

we had not previously participated in. It was also a task that brought a tremendous amount of personal perspective to the impact our participation could have on these families' lives. Each family had been touched by circumstances that made me realize just how fortunate many of us are. One thing about our Grace family that has been a constant in the time I have been privileged to be here, is our congregation has always been quick to respond when an opportunity to help those in need has arisen. In a short amount of time, the lists were filled and separated by family. On Tuesday, December 21, delivery drivers Charles Cochran, Lynn Rieger, Dave Thomas, and yours truly, loaded our cargo at Grace and The Well, and spread out to make our deliveries. I am told all went smoothly, and I sincerely hope we can strengthen this partnership next year.

Thank you to all who donated and helped to make this outreach successful and supply a better Christmas for these families.

Christ's Peace,
John Harvey

"Another Year is Dawning"

Text: Frances R. Havergal

Melody: AURELIA, by Samuel Wesley

By this time, I'm sure that none of you are surprised that, no matter the event or the time of year, I will be reminded of a hymn!

One of the yearly traditions in the church where I grew up was a thing called a Watch Night Service.

It began at about 8:00 on New Year's Eve and consisted of a talent show which was mostly kids doing skits, refreshments, and a movie, usually a Disney title that included a cartoon, and then at about 11:30 we would all go to the sanctuary for a time of prayer for the new year. Even as a young child who was excited to be staying up past midnight, I recall the solemn atmosphere as we prayed together for the new year that was about to begin.

We didn't always sing, but there were a couple of times when we sang:

Another year is dawning!

Dear Father, let it be,

in working or in waiting,

another year with Thee;
Another year of progress,
another year of praise,
another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
of faithfulness and grace,
another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training.
For holier work above,
another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.

This meaningful hymn expresses thanks for God's gifts of mercy, grace, peace, and rest, and prays for them to continue; but it is also a prayer for our preparation for service to God here on earth, and in heaven.

I will be praying for my family here at Grace as this year progresses, as we worship and serve our God together.
Deanie Moore

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

Susan Austin, Junior Warden
David Thomas, Treasurer
Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life
Will Pomeroy, Communications
Diann Schneider, Christian Education
Carol Martinez
Ed Cochran

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

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

