

Grace Notes

Volume II, Issue 4

October, 2019

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Notes is the monthly newsletter for Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill. It is emailed or mailed to members and friends of the church and given to visitors and interested individuals. If you would like to contribute an article or comment, please reach out to a member of the Grace Notes committee: Carol Martinez, Pat Mayo, or Ed Strong.

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.

Events and Dates of Note

Here are just some of the events scheduled at Grace. Please mark the following dates on your calendar. More information to come in the bulletin and the newsletter.

- Nov. 3 Fall back: daylight savings time ends.
All Saints' Sunday (Grace contact:
Father Joe)
- Nov. 10 Stewardship Drive Kick-off (Grace
contact: Carol Martinez)
- Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 1 Advent I: 1st Day of Church Year
- Dec. 8 Advent Lessons & Carols, 10:00
Blessing of pledges and
celebration luncheon (11:15)
(Grace contact: Jessica Farmer)
- Dec. 14 Grace welcomes the participants of
the Spring Hill Christmas Parade.
(Grace contacts: Lynn & Bill Rieger)

Note: Grace Church plans to participate in the Maury County Historical Home Tour at least on one day, times to be announced. (Grace Contact: Alicia Fitts)

Services and Continuing events

- Sun. 8 and 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist
(Children's Church at 10 a.m.)
- 2nd & 4th Mon. Creative Monday
1 to 3 p.m.
- Tues. & Fri. AA at 7 p.m.
- Wed. Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing,
Rite II

The Vicar's Vagaries

This time of year straddles the seasons. The first days of October were like the tail end of summer, with temperatures in the mid-90s. At the mission council meeting last week, we made plans for the first two weeks of December. Lately, there have been several of cool nights and warm, beautiful days.

As Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God," and that is especially true in the fall in Middle Tennessee. The abundant grass, the rolled bales of hay, and the variety of trees in our part of the country inspire our hearts to make spontaneous acts of thanksgiving. The differences we experience in the four seasons dazzle us steadily, if not constantly, with changing natural beauty.

I saw a movie last week called *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. It was set in Malawi, a country in southern Africa. It is about a 13 year-old boy named William, his family, and their village. The seasons in Malawi differ greatly from the seasons in Middle Tennessee. There are the rainy season, the dry season, and time of harvest, and the planting season. In the period when this movie is set, William's village experiences a draught. William is a very smart boy, but his father cannot pay his school fees in advance, so he is told by the school's principal to quit coming to school. That is very hard for me to imagine! But it is true. Still, he keeps up a relationship with his science teacher, who is very fond of William's older sister.

William is especially interested in science. He and his friend frequently go to the dump and look for old batteries, broken cassette players and radios, and parts of machines that William can work on. He finds an old pump that he saves, thinking it might come in handy one day. And it does.

When the famine grows severe, William does not give up. His father prays for rain and nearly works himself to death, preparing to plant his last seeds even though the rains will probably not come for many weeks. William takes another course. He comes up with an idea for a machine that could save

the village...if he can only get his father to let him build it.

This is a very good movie about love, and trust, and about using the gifts one has been given. Though his father does not understand, and though even the school principle opposes him, William never gives up. He is a true example of the virtue Jesus praises in the widow in whose favor the unjust judge decides her case, so she will leave him alone (Luke 18). Jesus praises her persistence, though she is a very unpleasant person. She is scrappy; and Jesus admires scrappiness. Stories that encourage us never to give up and to do the most we can with what we have can strengthen the hope and determination of people like you and me.

I highly recommend the movie, and I am very curious about the book, which is a memoir written by the boy himself with the help of a professional writer. The movie is available on Netflix and Amazon Prime. If you see the movie, let me know what you think.

Faithfully,
Father Joe

Daughters of Grace Serve as Prayer Warriors

The Daughters of Grace are members of The Order of Daughters of the King (DOK), an international order of women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church or churches in communion with it. The vision of the Order is to know Our Lord Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit and reaffirming the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation. A Daughter undertakes a Rule of Life, taking life-long vows pledging herself to prayer, service, and evangelism.

The Daughters of Grace are truly prayer warriors, praying for salvation, evangelism, the Vicar, and the entire congregation of Grace Church. They accept requests for prayer and keep them confidential unless permission is given to share them with the congregation. Members meet once a month for prayer, meditation and devotions, Bible study, discussion on opportunities for service, and business of the Order as a whole.

Members are: Toni Strong, Sheila Flynn, Stana Chapman, Lynn Rieger, Cheryl Cline and "Mama" Flo Kline. You can recognize them by the Cross they wear as part of their promises. If you are interested in learning more about the Order or how to

prepare to become a member of the DOK Daughters of Grace, please reach out to one of these women.

By Toni Strong, president

Grace Reaches Out to the Community

Our Lord has taught us that when we help "the least of these my brothers and sisters" among us, we are doing good to Jesus himself. Here is a year-to-date recap of our efforts to assist those in need in the Spring Hill area and beyond.

Grace has donated over 500 pounds of food through September to The Well.

Grace donated \$1,157 to the Center of Hope from funds raised in May's Divine Swine barbecue.

The Good Friday offering was sent this year to support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem.

Discretionary funds were used to assist persons in need.

Grace continues to provide a venue for weekly AA meetings.

In addition to these efforts, we are just weeks away from kicking off our Adopt-a-Family campaign to provide Christmas gifts to families in need in Maury and Williamson counties.

By Richard Hawarah, Mission Council, Community Outreach

Quilting with Grace Ministry Provides Comfort

When Grace Church members and others who have a loss, are ill, are having surgery, or are experiencing the happiness of welcoming a baby to the family, Quilting With Grace ministry provides comfort quilts.

The entire congregation participates in the ministry. The quilts are sewn by Deanie Moore, who is music director at Grace. Completed quilts are finished by embroidery floss ties. Quilts are placed on a table after services and all are invited to tie a knot and say a prayer for healing joy and comfort for the person receiving the quilt. Participants in this ministry are also asked to add the recipient to their daily prayers. The quilts remind recipients of the people who are praying for them.

This project is an important prayer ministry at Grace. During the three years of the ministry, started by Mrs. Moore and Danette Olsen, more than 20 quilts have been distributed at Grace. If you have fabric to donate or would like to help sewing the quilts, please reach out to Mrs. Moore.

By Carol Martinez

Stewardship Drive will Begin Nov. 10

As 2019 comes to close, the Vicar and Mission Council are busy praying and planning for 2020. The completed Grace survey will be a key part in establishing a plan for the upcoming year. As you may know, the worship and activities at Grace are funded in large part by pledges from members of our congregation.

This is the time of year when we ask you to consider prayerfully how much money you and your family will contribute to Grace in the coming year. The stewardship drive will begin on Sunday, Nov. 10 and will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 10 with the blessing of the pledges and a celebration lunch. Members of the stewardship committee are: Carol Martinez, chairman; Ed Strong, treasurer, Dave Thomas, and Marty Cline.

Financial Update for October, 2019

September was the first month of 2019 where our income exceeded our expenses and it did by a lot!

Income - \$17,200.00

Expenses - \$10,890.80

We continue to remain in a solid cash position with \$9,335 in the checking account and \$84,675 in savings. September was an exceptional month mainly due to receipt of half of a large pledge plus receipt of the organ repair money received from the Diocese. While this was an unusual month, we celebrate any excellent news like this. This all reflects a temporary great position on income. Even if we stripped out the organ funds we received (\$3,999), we still exceeded expenses. We continue to note that our non-pledged income is about half of what was budgeted. For the year, we are at \$4,322 versus a budget expectation of \$8,100. But the trend was promising in September with \$642 received against a target of \$900 – up to about 2/3's instead of the 50 percent trend we have been seeing.

As of the date of this writing, (10/24) we have 40 responses to the survey. As noted previously, this is a truly anonymous process. We do not know who has responded or not. We hope that all who receive this newsletter will take time to complete the survey. It was sent by e-mail on Oct. 7. This is an important part of the Mission Council's planning process. If you did not receive the e-mail and would like to complete the survey, please contact Ed Strong (267-250-4576, estrongjr@gmail.com) or David Thomas (615-982-4263, david.wm.thomas@gmail.com). Hard copies

are also available in Faith Hall. We would like to close out the process soon. Please take the time to respond and have your voice heard!

By Ed Strong, Treasurer

Art Walk Brings Hundreds to Our Church

More than 200 people visited Grace Episcopal Church on Saturday, Oct. 12 during the Spring Hill Art Walk. Creative works done by members of Grace, by the children of Grace, and by participants of Creative Mondays were on display. Bob Jones, original founder of the annual event in Spring Hill, displayed his drawings at Grace and received a First Place Ribbon from the event judges.

Deanie Moore played the organ and spoke with visitors and Diann Schneider welcomed visitors at the door of the church and gave a brief presentation on Grace. Many of the Grace members who attended the event invited Art Walk attendees to attend services and events at Grace.

Three works of art displayed at the event featured Grace Episcopal Church. Diann did an embroidery of the exterior of the church and Pat Mayo showed the Grace Building in an oil painting. Allen Blumberg created a wooden reproduction of the red door of Grace. The red door is now a permanent part of Grace and is on display in Faith Hall.

Young visitors were especially intrigued by James Dallas' pencil drawing titled: "My Dog's Dream After We Watched Godzilla Together." One young visitor declared: "Wow, even the windows have art," upon entering Grace. It was wonderful to welcome so many people to our church and share the Grace Episcopal Church experience with them.

By Carol Martinez

Bible Verses Shared by Stana Chapman

Ask and it will be given

Seek and you shall find

Knock and the door will be opened

All of the times

Luke 11:9-10

Therefore, do not worry

Tomorrow will worry itself

Each day has enough worry

Put it on a shelf

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Grace Episcopal Church

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