

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

Volume III, Issue 15  
November 2020

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, John Harvey, Ed Strong, 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.*

## Events and Dates of Notes

Here are just some of the dates to note on the church calendar. Please mark the following dates on your calendar. Information on activities and programs at Grace will be sent to you via email and Facebook.

Nov. 22	Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent
Nov. 30	St. Andrew the Apostle
Dec. 21	St. Thomas the Apostle
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Day
Dec. 26	St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
Dec. 27	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents

## Services and Continuing Events

Sun. at 10 a.m.	To attend in-person service, email Susan Austin, <a href="mailto:sjanawicz@aol.com">sjanawicz@aol.com</a> , to reserve physically distanced seating.
Sun. at 10 a.m.	Online Eucharist via Facebook Live
Sun. at 11 a.m.	Coffee Hour via Zoom Live
Tues. at 10 a.m.	Bible Study via Zoom
Tues. & Fri. at 7 p.m.	AA Meeting

## Advent: A Time for Hope; a Time for Change

“Advent is not another Lent.” “Advent is not a penitential season.” Just do a Google search, and you will find all kinds of little articles on how Advent is a time of joyful expectation, a time of anticipation, and a time of hope. All of that is true, but what do you find when you read the lessons for this season? The word of God is full of the call to change, to repent, to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. Isaiah doesn’t beg God to “Rend the heavens and come down” because everything is so splendid. John the Baptist doesn’t appear like a biblical late-night talk show host announcing his special guest for the evening. He means business when he says, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

And since Jesus has already been born in Bethlehem, we are not preparing for his coming as the newborn infant of Christmas. That’s ancient history, literally. We are preparing for his second coming as the Lord of all creation, who will come again in God’s time at a moment when not even Jesus could predict. He told his disciples that only the Father knows that time. So, we should all live in expectation. Be alert. Be ready!

Are you ready now? I’m not! I have many things I need to do first before I am ready for his second coming, and I suspect you do too. Because we all need to take stock and consider how we might be better prepared to meet our Lord when he comes to us, the Church gives us the season of Advent. We don’t need to be told Advent is not another Lent as much as we need to be reminded that Advent is not a month-long celebration of Christmas—no matter how the houses of your neighborhood are lit up the day after Thanksgiving. If we are going to have a Christmas feast we can truly celebrate, we need a time devoted to preparation. To be truly prepared, we need discipline and training. These take time and dedication. Advent is that season of giving God time; in fact, it’s a season to learn to live in God’s time instead of on the world’s schedule.

We can’t fix this world, and we can’t bring God down to earth. Only God can bring in his kingdom, and we can only be close to him to the extent that he

comes to us. So, Advent is our time of clearing out the obstacles that keep God away. It is a good time to meditate on the promises he has made to his people, for he will fulfill every one. These promises will strengthen our hope.

In our liturgy, we reflect the need for change in heart by using the penitential acclamation: “Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins; His mercy endures forever.” We say the Kyrie Eleison: “Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.” We pray the Agnus Dei: “Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy upon us.... Grant us peace.” For Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we use Eucharistic Prayer B, in which we give thanks for the “goodness and love” which God has made known “above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son,” whom God sent “to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.”

The candles on the Advent wreath shine holy light to support us as we wait in the darkness of this world for the coming of the light of Christ. No one else can give us what we most deeply long for. No one else can heal all our wounds and reconcile us all to one another and to God. In him alone we hope, now and always.

*Maranatha!* Come, Lord Jesus!

Father Joe

### **Service to Others**

Those of you who were in church on Sunday, November 15, either in person or via live stream, may find this a bit repetitive. Please bear with me for a moment. I believe some of the thoughts I shared about stewardship are worth repeating. I would also like to offer some additional thoughts about life as we are experiencing it today.

When we speak about stewardship, we are recognizing the concept that God has entrusted us with all the resources of His creation. We are also given the responsibility to nurture and increase those resources, using them for His glory. The first of those resources we probably think of are financial, most commonly in the form of our pledges. Other forms of financial increase we give back to God are special offerings, donations for adopting families at Christmas, and food donations for The Well. These are all ways in which we honor the Lord by

furthering the works He would have us do with the resources He has entrusted to us. I submit that another way to describe those works is “service to others.”

We are engaging in service to others when we share some other resources God has given us—our “time and talents.” This service often occurs unseen by most, but rest assured it is recognized by the One who truly matters and rewards us with the opportunity of a deepening personal relationship with God. Examples of this service are helping our Jr. Warden, Susan Austin, with the upkeep of our building and grounds. She can always use assistance and will welcome any volunteers. Other examples are the work the wonderful ladies of the Altar Guild do to have us ready for services, our community outreach programs, Christian Education for adults and children, readers for our services, help for our production crew on the live stream services, IT assistance, and occasional office help. Some of these activities can be performed in small groups observing safety protocols and offering the chance to get outside and enjoy some fresh air. Others are suited for working individually, and some can be performed remotely.

I am going to walk out on a limb here, and drill down into this concept of service to others. This is purely my interpretation, and I welcome comments from you all. I think we would all acknowledge the last nine months have brought tremendous changes to the way we live our daily lives. The most notable change is the way we have been physically separated and limited in our personal interaction with others. Over time, this tends to take a toll on one’s mental and emotional health. While we have several outreach avenues to serve the larger community, my concern is we might overlook some in our own Grace family. I strongly believe that a pillar of God’s wish for us to serve others is we make certain we take care of each other. I believe there is an opportunity for us to help some who, because of age and health issues, or family situations, are more isolated than the more fortunate of us.

We have learned and adapted to the physical separation thrust upon us. Being able to communicate virtually through live streamed services and Zoom meetings has been a blessing. I would like to see this expanded to allow small groups to spend time communicating other than just

on Sundays. There may be some hurdles to jump, but I do not think they are insurmountable. I have spoken to some of you about this, but I would love to hear from more of you who might be interested in participating in a group or helping get this planned and launched. Please call or email me with your thoughts.

Christ's Peace,

John Harvey, Sr. Warden

[jnhv75@gmail.com](mailto:jnhv75@gmail.com), 601-954-1865

P.S. See a list of other opportunities to serve later in this issue.

### **Daughters of Grace**

Laurie McNutt was received into the Daughters of Grace Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King® on August 2, 2020 at the 10 a.m. service. Laurie committed herself to a rule of life taking vows of prayer, service, and evangelism. Daughters of the King strive to reflect God's love to all and promise to wear the cross of the order faithfully. We pray daily for Father Joe, our vicar, and for the entire congregation. Please bring your needs for prayer to us; we will intercede on your behalf asking our blessed Lord Jesus to hear us and answer according to His holy will. May He continue to bless us and keep us in His care during these challenging times.

Toni Strong

[tonistrong2319@yahoo.com](mailto:tonistrong2319@yahoo.com), 717-372-8619

### **Nurture Grace So It Will Grow and Thrive**

How much does Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill matter to you? On the continuum of your life, where would our church be? Would it be high priority, in the middle, or would it be low priority?

If our church is high priority – or even middle priority – are you willing to help us nurture it so that it will continue to grow and thrive? Are you willing to help us nurture Grace Episcopal Church so that we can effectively reach out to others in our local, national and world community in Christian love?

I used the word 'nurture' because that is what we are doing when we make a pledge to donate to the church each year.

Rather than viewing the church as an organization that needs to take care of us, let us recognize that we are the heart of the church, so we need to take care of it.

Taking care of the church, nurturing it, means that we provide what is needed for the actual building and material components of the church.

Taking care of the church, nurturing it, means that we provide what is needed to take care of our vicar, organist, and other staff members; they are essential.

Taking care of the church, nurturing it, also means that we give from our hearts when we can.

Paraphrasing words of the late president, John F. Kennedy, ask not what Grace Episcopal can do for you; ask what you can do for Grace Episcopal.

We need for you to join with us and make a pledge for the year 2021. Today.

Karyl Chastain Beal

### **Beloved Hymn Sung During Christmas Season**

"Once in Royal David's City" with text by Cecil Frances Alexander and tune by Henry Guantlett is a Christmas hymn that is a favorite of most everyone. As the season nears, I love to listen to the recording of the Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge. The Processional Hymn is always "Once in Royal David's City" and has been ever since the first of these Christmas Eve services in 1918.

The text was written by Cecil Francis Alexander to help children understand the phrase from the Apostles' Creed: "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary." Each stanza explores the contrast between Jesus' humanity and divinity. Stanzas one and two recall Jesus' humble birth; stanza three focuses on Jesus' childhood and his identity with humanity; stanzas four and five anticipate the sharing of Christ's glory with his children.

Most of Mrs. Alexander's poems and hymns were written for the purpose of teaching children. She wrote hymns based on the Lord's Prayer, baptism, the Ten Commandments, and prayer, all written in clear, simple language.

As well as being an accomplished poet, she spent her life helping those who needed food, clothing, and medical care. Together with her sister, she also established a school for the deaf.

I am looking forward to the seasons of Advent and Christmas for many reasons, but primarily for the opportunity to sing this beloved hymn!

Deanie Moore

### **Get Involved in a Ministry at Grace**

Many opportunities are available for people to get involved at Grace. Here is a list of some of the different ministries and the person you may contact to find out more about each opportunity.

Looking for something “Behind the Scenes”:

- Altar Guild – Linda Colmore
- Yard and building maintenance-Susan Austin
- Assisting with office tasks- Fr. Joe or John Harvey
- Serve on a committee – John Harvey
- Visitation of the homebound – Fr. Joe

How about something more “Out Front”:

- Lay Reader, Crucifer, or Chalice Bearer – Fr. Joe
- Children’s church volunteer – Lynn Rieger
- Choir member – Deanie Moore, organist & music director

Taking part in our community events:

- Community Outreach – Richard Hawarah
- Creative Mondays – Pat Mayo
- Divine Swine – John Harvey
- Spring Hill Art Walk – Pat Mayo or Carol Martinez
- Christmas Parade – Lynn Rieger

*\* SOME EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE ON PAUSE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC*

### **Grace Adopts Families for Christmas**

The weeks leading up to Christmas are some of the most exciting and anticipation-filled of the year. In addition to preparing ourselves for Advent and the celebration of Jesus’ birth, the anticipation is because of the gifts that we will receive on Christmas day. For the past three years Grace Church has supported the Adopt a Family program at the Center of Hope in Columbia. This program provides Christmas gifts for families who cannot afford gifts on their own. The new, unwrapped gifts we deliver provide the only present’s these families will likely receive. This is a wonderful way to

brighten the Christmas of the needy in our community.

Thanks to all who have participated in this ministry. Your kindness is appreciated, and we hope to take part in the Adopt a Family program for years to come. The Center of Hope is a refuge of peaceful existence providing innovative and compassionate direct advocacy, therapeutic counseling, and residential services to victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking. The comprehensive program ensures that the needs of the victims are met in a holistic and compassionate manner by equipping and empowering them with the skills they need to move beyond the trauma and onto the fulfilled lives they deserve.

Richard Hawarah

### **Treasurer’s Report October 2020**

October was not our best month by a long shot. Expenses were up significantly but we can account for that. Income was lower than previous months, close to our lowest month so far in 2020. On the expense side we had to make two payments in September for our largest bill, health insurance for Father Joe. We did this to bring payments into alignment with due dates. Essentially, we would get a monthly bill that showed us a month behind every month. Our payment crossed in the mail with their bill. We adjusted our payment date to eliminate this problem. But that meant we had a double payment in October thus pushing expenses about \$2835 higher than we have been running. Last month we noted that September would have been quite low against budget if not for a grant received. We received no additional funding in October. Thus, our income is well below expenses. We had to move \$3,000 from our undesignated savings to cover the extra payment in October.

### **October Financial Summary**

Income:	\$6,392
Anticipated Giving:	\$1,000
Total Income:	<b>\$7,392</b>
Expenses:	-\$12,649
Diff:	<b>-\$5,257</b>

**Balance Sheet**

First Horizon Ckg. Acct.	\$5,610.26
First Horizon Sav. Acct.	\$67,666.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,316.95</b>
Sav. Acct. Breakdown	(67,666.69)
Organ Maint. Fund	\$23,500.00
Building Fund	\$34,540.00
Large Pledge Escrow Acct.	\$3,087.17
Undesignated Funds	\$6,539.52

We are trending downward in our finances. Hopefully, we can catch up as we move toward the end of the year through pledges being made up and other giving.

Ed Strong, Treasurer

**Selfie Directory Now Available**

Grace Episcopal Selfie Directory 2020-2021 was recently released and mailed to all who are listed in the publication. Thanks so much to Peggy Roberts who served as editor of the publication and spent many months compiling information and collecting selfie photos during a very COVID-19 time. She worked with Fr. Joe on the project. Karyl Beal copy edited the directory and Richard Hawarah assisted with providing information on new members. The cover features artwork created by Susan Elizabeth Thomas.

During this time of quarantine, it is great to have a resource that gives us the information needed to reach out to members of our church family. Phone calls, texts and emails are all great ways of staying in touch along with the old-fashioned methods of communication such as cards and letters.

The book includes the story of Grace Episcopal provided by Historical Society of Spring Hill. If you would like to receive a copy of the directory, please reach out to Peggy Roberts at [proberts000@charter.net](mailto:proberts000@charter.net) (931-625-6069). The printing of the publication was donated by an anonymous member. The information in the directory is for the use of persons who attend Grace Episcopal Church. *Please do not share the information in the directory on social media.*

By Carol Martinez

**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**

John Harvey, Senior Warden  
Susan Austin, Junior Warden  
Jessica Farmer, Congregation Life  
Mark Henderson, Communications  
Richard Hawarah, Community Outreach  
Diann Schneider, Christian Education  
Ed Strong, Treasurer  
David Thomas, Assistant Treasurer  
Michele Gibson O’Grady, Clerk

To give to Grace Church online:  
<https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org/#giving>,

