Grace Notes

Volume II, Issue 1 July, 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

Special 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.

Sept. 15 Constitution Week Celebration
(Grace contact: John Harvey)

(Grace contact: John Harvey)

Sept. 30 Fifth Sunday Brunch

(Grace contact: Jessica Farmer)
Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 6 Blessing of the Anima (Grace contact: Father Joe)

Oct. 12 Spring Hill Art Walk

(Grace contacts: Pat Mayo and Carol Martinez)

Services and Continuing events

Sundays at 8 and 10 am, Holy Eucharist (Childrens' Church at 10 am)

2nd and 4th Monday Creative Monday

1 to 3 pm

Mondays OA at 7 pm Tuesdays & Fridays AA at 7 pm

Wednesdays at Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing,

Rite II

Articles

Grace Church 2019 Budget Update

We last reported on our budget at the Jan. 13, 2019 annual meeting. We are excited that the newsletter has been revived so that we can give you a much more recent and much more positive update on our financial situation.

At the time of the annual meeting, we were projecting a deficit of nearly \$24,000 coming into 2019. Since that time, we have been able to close that gap considerably, primarily through additional pledges, taking us to a projected deficit of approximately \$4,000 - \$6,000. Further we had a gift from heaven in the form of a bequest from the estate of Margaret Thompson, who attended Grace many years ago and felt a real connection to the church. We recently received a check for over \$66,900 from her estate. That was a real blessing that allows us some breathing room to examine our internal processes that affect our ability to grow and serve God and the community. The Mission Council has been examining what we might be able to do to impact growth. Progress will be reported in future newsletters.

Many ask – how did we do at the Divine Swine? We are pleased to report that we had net income of slightly over \$2,000. The Mission Council has designated a portion of that income to support the Center of Hope in Columbia. The Center is a refuge of peaceful existence providing services to victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

We also note that another, older, bequest is being held for us at the Diocese, with instructions to use that \$10,000 to support maintenance and repair of the organ. We are working on how to access that money now.

What a generous congregation, our pledge giving is running close to on target. At the end of May, year to date income was \$42,2000 against expenses of \$48,112. Our plate offering, money

received in cash or checks outside of pledges, is running about half of what it was last year.

We are in the summer months when giving often drops off. Our expenses, however, remain about the same. Please be mindful of your commitments to Grace as we enjoy the summer months here and away.

By Ed Strong, Treasurer

Children's Church Highlights Ancestors of Christ

This summer students in Children's Church are learning about the ancestors of Christ. "We are excited about this and look forward to teaching the children about many of the Biblical figures of the Old Testament," said Lynn Rieger, director of children's church.

Among the featured people will be: Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and Boaz, David and Solomon. The children will learn about these ancestors and the journeys they made throughout the region. They will use Bibles that were recently donated to children's church by Richard and Marsha Hawarah.

Adults who would like to take part in this series or learn more about participating in children's church, please reach out to Lynn Rieger or Jana Balke.

The Importance of the Tithe

Have you ever really thought about the importance of the tithe?

God's word says in Malachi 3:10:

"Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse that there may be food in my house and prove me now by it, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Such a blessing that there will not be enough room to receive it? Boy, that sounds good.

My husband Robert and I adhere to this monthly. We tithe with an attitude of gratitude and joy, expecting our needs to be met abundantly. After all, doesn't God promise us in Philippians 4:19 "And my God will liberally supply your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus?" We believe the promises in the Bible, and we've always found them to come true. Trusting God and what he says in His Word is a great challenge, but it has proved to be as sweet as honey. We are richly blessed in every way. We have all the material

possessions we could possibly ask for, and we're spiritually enriched as we read the Bible regularly' We watch God come through every trial and challenge with provisions where, before, we could see no way.

God doesn't want us to live in bondage. He wants us to be free. That's why he sent Jesus, and why Jesus died for us. He died to redeem us of our sins and to give us joy and abundant life. All he asks is for us to trust him; and as he says in Malachi – "Prove me and see what I will do!"

By Stana Chapman

The Vicar's Vagaries

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Through the determined efforts and inspired work of John Harvey, Ed Strong, Carol Martinez and Pat Mayo, *Grace Notes*, our church newsletter, has been reborn. As we are pulled in so many directions these days, usually only gathering on Sunday mornings as a congregation, this newsletter gives us another way of staying connected with one another and keeping up with events at church.

As we make our way into July, I hope everyone has a little more time for friends, family, and recreation. Also, some relaxed time for reading, study, and prayer may be available to you. I am catching up on my reading by tackling a book I promised my grandfather 41 years ago that I would read. I remember when he picked up *In Search of History*, by Theodore H. White, from the table beside his chair and handed it to me. "Joe, I want you to read this book. Will you promise me that you will read it?"

"Oh no! It's not even a history book. It's about history! And he is making me promise! I don't want to read that book! This could not be fun!!

"Sure," I said, taking the book from him and thanking him, telling myself I would be able to read it sometime after I graduated from college. I have often looked at the inscription he wrote in the front of that book before he handed it to me.

For Joe, from his Harvard Grandpa, AB 1921 Sept. 22, 1978

That was the fall of my senior year in college. I have no idea why I was visiting at Grandpa's house when I was supposed to be in college, but I am glad I was. About three weeks later, without warning, on Oct. 16, he had a massive heart attack and died.

It has long been a cause of wonder that the last time I saw my grandfather, he gave me a book and asked me to promise I would read it. Now I am wondering: Is there a special message for me in this book? As I read it, the book is like a long conversation with my grandfather, whom I never got to know in my adulthood. I am following a path he took 41 years ago, a path he enjoyed so much that he badly wanted me to go on that same journey with him.

On around Ascension Day, I started the book, and I found it fascinating. Its time had come! Or maybe mine had. In my homily for Ascension Day, I asked the congregation, "How could anyone you cannot see have authority over you in this world?" I was referring to the ascended Christ, to whom we refer as Lord. But I was also thinking about my grandfather. It had nagged me all this time that I had never read the book he made me promise I would read. So, I started it.

I am well over half-way through now, and I read a little every day. I am finding that Theodore White was a journalist who tried to find through the events of the 20th Century the threads of history while they were still a confusing mixture of undistinguished facts. He was on a search through real time for History, the story of our lives. How may we find the real story among the seemingly unconnected events in our lives and in the world? How do we find where God is leading us, and how do we remain true to him along the way? I believe that we at Grace Church are dedicated to finding our way together. May God bless us as we pursue the Way of Jesus Christ, and may he give us understanding of how we may serve him, love one another, and be as Christ in the world.

Faithfully, Father Joe

Grace Episcopal Church

5291 N. Main St. Spring Hill, TN 37174. 931-486-3223. office@grace4sh.org

Clergy and Staff

The R. Rev. Dr. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop
The Rev. Joseph N. Davis, Vicar
Deannie Moore, Director of Music
Susan Browning, Office Manager
Bryan Young, Verger

The Mission Council

John Harvey, Senior Warden
Bill Rieger, Junior Warden
Jessica Farmer, Parish Life
Kala Fawbush, Communications
Richard Hawarah, Community Outreach
Mark Henderson, Education
Ed Strong, Treasurer
Susan Austin, Secretary