

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 9
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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.*

- Sept. 26 **Blessing of donations to The Well**
- Oct. 4 St. Francis of Assisi, Friar & Deacon
- Oct. 3 **Blessing of the Animals, 1:00 p.m.**
- Oct. 16 **Grace Fall Cleanup**
- Oct. 18 St. Luke The Evangelist
- Oct. 23 St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Oct. 23 **Art Walk participation**

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Mon.	(Paused)	Creative Mondays, Faith Hall, 2nd & 4th weeks
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Father Joe, Office hours
Wed.'s	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist

The Vicar's Vagaries: Equal Time for God

Ever since the resurrection of Jesus, Sunday has been the Lord's Day, the day we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. The week isn't the same if we don't offer our time and attention to God in worship on the Lord's Day. Most Christians don't feel right if they don't worship God on Sunday.

Many Episcopal churches offer at least one additional service sometime during the week. Ours is Wednesday at noon. This service has always had a few people attending in the 4.5 years I have been at Grace. I want to invite you to consider attending this service even if you have not thought about doing so before.

It is always worth the time and effort to offer this act of worship in the name of Christ. Since at least two people must be present for a Eucharist to be celebrated, you are helping our congregation take part in an act of worship for the glory of God which results in more benefits than we could know.

This service is very much like a Sunday service, except that we rarely sing, and we pray the litany for healing from the Book of Occasional Services. The sacrament of healing is available for those who would like to be anointed. If you have ever looked for something good you can do about the state of things in the world around us, you may come and offer your prayers for healing, peace, and justice.

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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.

- Sept. 14 Holy Cross Day
- Sept. 18 **Episcopal Church Fall Assembly,
ECW & Daughters of the King**
- Sept. 21 St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Catching Up

Prayer is our best response to our Lord's admonition, "Be not anxious!" Bring matters you are seriously concerned about to church and leave them before the altar in prayer. You may feel as though your burden has been lightened. I often find a solution to a matter—soon after asking our Lord to help me with it. The Wednesday service is the perfect time to pray about such matters and search for guidance.

We usually celebrate one of the Lesser Feasts and Fasts or a Major Feast. All the biblical saints have their own Major Feast in the Church Calendar. These services give those who attend a sense of being part of the Communion of Saints, and it is very fortifying to receive communion more than once in a week. Taking part in a quiet, mid-week celebration can renew our sense of connection with God and help us stay recollected through the week.

See the Episcopal Church Calendar for all the Sundays, the Lesser Feasts and Fasts, and the Major Feasts in the Church year, as well as appropriate liturgical colors for the service. Please ask for a calendar if you don't have one. We have many extras! If you use the internet, check out the Episcopal Lectionary and Satucket.com/lectionary online for collects, lessons, and information about saints commemorated.

If you would like to come but are not able to do so, those of us who are present will be at prayer on behalf of our whole congregation.

Father Joe

St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of Animals

On Sunday, October 3, we will have the Blessing of Animals at 1:00 p.m. If you have a dog or cat or other pet that you would like to bring for a blessing, come for a brief service in thanksgiving for our animal friends who enrich our lives so much. It is our custom to have this service on the Sunday afternoon closest to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who is known for the way he knew and loved God through his appreciation of all living things.

Father Joe

I've been asked to provide updates for a few things some of you may or may not have missed in the sometimes chaotic world we've been living in this year. I promised myself that I would be more cognizant of the fact life today tends to cause people to be centered more on the things going on in their own household, and less attuned to things farther away. So, for those who find themselves in a similar place, I will attempt to "catch you up".

On Sunday, May 23, Grace held a Special Meeting to address some proposed changes to our bylaws. The pandemic has forced us to adjust our behaviors in many of our daily activities, and it only makes sense we adapt our bylaws to give us the flexibility to operate in this unfamiliar environment. It was felt we needed to make these changes in order to allow the Mission Council to operate more efficiently and safely, as well as make it less difficult to recruit members to serve on the Mission Council and promote continuity in our programs. I will list the changes in order.

Article I, Sec. 2, Annual Meetings Amended to reflect a single yearly meeting the second Sunday of January. I don't recall a second Annual Meeting in June since I have been here. If one were needed, a Special Meeting could be called.

Article I, Sec. 3b, Special Notice This formerly required specific notice of Annual and meetings by email, personal notice face to face or by phone, or failing personal notice, by US Mail to the last known address provided to the church office.

Article 2, Sec. 5, Meetings and Notices This formerly required meetings be in person to satisfy quorum and voting requirements. The change brings us into the 21st century, as follows. "Meetings held electronically where there is both video and audio, such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, etc., shall be treated the same as in-person meetings for all purposes, including, but not limited to, establishing a quorum, and voting on motions made during the meeting."

Article III, Sec. I, and Sec. 3, address election of Senior and Junior Wardens, and was amended to "Any Mission Council member may be elected Senior Warden/Junior Warden for a one year term

in any year he or she serves on the Mission Council. Serving a second or third consecutive year as Senior/Junior Warden is permissible.” This aligns the terms with the term for a Mission Council member in the event a new member is qualified, while maintaining the requirement of being elected yearly.

If anyone has more questions, please feel free to give me a call. Or give me a call if you have an interest in becoming involved in the Mission Council.

Carol Martinez asked me to mention the men’s breakfast. I am hesitant because we can’t match the turnout the “Ladies of Grace” manage. In truth, we are an informal group, whose numbers ebb and flow, with a handful of guys who meet on Thursday morning at the Old School Restaurant at 9:00 AM. There’s a strict vetting process, but if you’re interested drop in or give me a call.

And finally, I’m told I need to recognize some new additions to our Grace family. These are the true blessings we receive no matter what else is going on in the world. On July 12, 2021, Will, Michelle, and Barrett Pomeroy welcomed a new son and brother, Braxton Kupa’aikaika (“Steadfast,” “Strong”) Pomeroy. (Braxton’s middle name is Hawaiian). I suspect life has become entertaining around the Pomeroy household.

Next, Robert and Lauren Mott became new parents with the arrival of their son, Leon Alexander Mott, on August 30, 2021. Leon is the first grandchild on either side of his family. Somehow, I don’t see Leon as suffering from a lack of attention.

Please join me in welcoming these boys and congratulating their parents. I look forward to the day we can see Braxton and Leon at church with the rest of the kids.

Christ’s Peace,
John Harvey, Sr. Warden

A Change is in the Air

The cooler temperatures the last few mornings remind us that the seasons will be changing soon. Autumn is the perfect time to spend some time together outside and prepare the grounds for winter.

The plan is to begin Phase II of the flower gardens around mid-October. This will involve transplanting some of the existing perennials, putting in some new plants and laying down a fresh layer of mulch. Another job that never seems to end is the raking of the leaves. We’ll need a full team of volunteers to manage the fall clean-up.

For those volunteers who would rather work inside, the kitchen cabinets could use a good cleaning out and the children’s classroom still needs to be put back together. As you can see, we could use everyone’s help. I would certainly appreciate it! So please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 16 and perhaps the 2 following weekends (to allow for inclement weather).

I think it might be fun to reward our challenging work with a BBQ or an ice cream social after the work is done. If we do this outside, we will be acting in a responsible way regarding the Covid virus. As we get closer to the date, we will announce the work dates in the Sunday bulletin and during the Sunday announcements.

Peace,
Susan Austin, Jr. Warden

Quilting with Grace

Several years ago, Danette Olsen and I began making quilts for members of our congregation who were ill. Danette made the quilt tops, and I did the batting and backing. The quilt was then tied with either yarn or embroidery floss, and we invited everyone to tie a knot, and say a prayer for the person who would receive the quilt.

This has turned out to be an incredibly meaningful ministry and there are many ways everyone can participate. If you would like to donate material, that would be wonderful – any color, and cotton or flannel are preferred. I know that some of you like to knit and crochet, and Afghans are perfect for this project too. I have lots of yarn if you need it or you may donate some for someone else to use.

If there are quilters out there who are waiting to be asked to participate, consider this your invitations. Of course, the most important material is prayer. The prayers said for those who receive them really do hold the quilts together. These quilts

are a physical reminder of the prayers being said, and this is enormously comforting. Join in this ministry – I promise that you will be blessed as you bless others.

Deanie Moore

I-O-Us to GOD

I submit this article in support of the excellent article Diann Schneider wrote about DOK, ECW, and UTO.

The United Thank Offering is dear to my heart, not only for its many ministries, but especially to me as a very personal and intimate way to worship our Lord and to thank Him for His many blessings, the big ones & the not so big ones!

The UTO blue box that I have goes back many years. Its design includes suggestions of large & small blessings worthy of our thanks e.g., snowflakes, a safe trip, un bebe nuevo, French fries, all creatures great and small, respect, forgiveness, God’s love, rainbows, a good neighbor, thunderstorms, beaches; a hole in one; the list goes on! To me, the purpose of UTO is to thank God more & more & more often.

I like to include with my gift a little note to God saying what I am thanking Him for. (The note is really more for me because I know that God knows what I’m thanking Him for). On the night before the delivery, I read the notes and can appreciate God’s blessings again. Sometimes I don’t have the exact change or bills that I need, so I include an IOU to God in my note. Then for the collection I write a check to UTO.

I believe that UTO is an ECW project, so maybe we could think about getting our Episcopal Church Women together at Grace!

Laurie McNutt, Congregational Life

2021 Spring Hill Art Walk to Come to Grace

The Spring Hill Art Walk, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 23, will include Grace Episcopal Church as one of the exhibit locations. Our venue will feature the works of some of the church’s artists, children’s art, and art from community members.

We will again offer visitors the opportunity to see the interiors of our lovely building. Each year during this event, many people are welcomed to

Grace and introduced to our church family. Visitors will be required to wear masks and follow social distance guidelines.

If you would like to exhibit your art during the event, please reach out to Pat Mayo or Carol Martinez. Also, we need volunteers to help make the event successful. Volunteers will hang the artwork in Faith Hall on Friday, Oct. 22. On Saturday, Oct. 23 we will need some hospitable church members to meet and greet our guests.

Pat Mayo

Grace Finances for August 2021

Grace Church’s finances are stable for August. We had a bit of a slump for July and August and pulled from savings reserves. Revenues often slump in the summer months and should stabilize again with the cooler weather.

Total August revenues:	\$5,431.00
Total August expenses:	\$8,867.65
First Horizon checking balance:	\$4,819.40
First Horizon savings balance:	\$58,760.59
Savings Breakdown:	
Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated:	\$14,607.99
Interest earned:	\$2.60
Total assets:	<u>\$63,579.99</u>

Dave Thomas, Treasurer

Mission Council Meeting

The Grace Church Mission Council met August 18, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Treasurer, David Thomas, reported July was difficult due to replacement of the air conditioning unit. Operating expenses continue requiring a one-time transfer of monies from undesignated funds account. Father Joe advised the council a church fund of \$200,000 has been established to assist congregations with energy efficient improvements to church property. New council members were reminded to complete their required online training, “Safeguarding Our Children”.

John Harvey, Sr. Warden, informed the council that the church annual audit is almost completed. Susan Austin, Sheila Flynn, and Peggy and Dick Roberts will meet a second time to verify the audit before submission. An arborist has anonymously offered to donate his services to Grace Church to trim trees, shrubs, and bushes in our landscaping. The Mission Council accepted his offer. The Maury County and Spring Hill Historical Commission will meet in Grace Church Sunday, September 19, in the afternoon to learn the history of our congregation, church building, and furnishings. Grace Church was a recipient of a grant through the Historical Society in 2020. John brought the request to the council. With Fr. Joe's approval and the council's acquiescence, Will Pomeroy will contact the speaker. David Thomas may record and broadcast the event.

- *Communications:* Will Pomeroy continues work to resolve our Facebook issues.
- *Christian Education and children's ministries:* Diann Schneider reminded women of the council to attend the Women's Fall Assembly and encourage others to attend September 18 at 9:00 a.m., at St. George's Church. Bishop Bauerschmidt will be the keynote speaker.
- *Congregational Life:* Laurie McNutt said Grace donated 147 pounds of food to The Well. She encouraged members to consider volunteering at The Well.
- *Community Outreach:* Les Bennett is now the mission council's liaison for Community Outreach.

The Mission Council adjourned at 7:43 p.m. and will meet again Wednesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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
David Thomas, Treasurer
Ed Strong, Assistant Treasurer
Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life
Les Bennett, Community Outreach
Will Pomeroy, Communications
Diann Schneider, Christian Education

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

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

