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# Grace Notes

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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.

June 21	Father's Day
June 24	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 28	The Apostles St. Peter and Paul

## Services and Continuing Events

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

### **The following services and events will resume after the statewide quarantine changes:**

Sundays at 8 and 10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist. E-mail Susan Austin, [sjanawicz@aol.com](mailto:sjanawicz@aol.com), to reserve physical distancing seating.  
(Children's Church at 10 a.m.)  
(Class for children age 9 and above, Third Sunday of each month, 9:30 to 10 a.m.)  
Wed. Noon Holy Eucharist & Healing, Rite II  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. Creative Monday, 1 to 3 p.m.

## Vicar's Vagaries

June 17, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After reading all the articles in this issue of Grace Notes, I want to congratulate Carol Martinez, Pat Mayo, Ed Strong, John Harvey, and Peggy Roberts for all they have done to make this newsletter work. I also congratulate all the contributors. It is not easy to put one's thoughts and feelings out in public for everyone else to see. There is plenty here without my writing anything at all.

But I do want to say a few words. This Pentecost, I was overwhelmed with the sense that God is reaching out to the whole world as he sends his Apostles to the ends of the earth with all that he taught them, baptizing all peoples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring everyone into an intimate relationship of love with God, and his agents are the members of the body of Christ. Today, that means us.

In the midst of a pandemic such as we have not known in our whole lifetime, and as cruel and unnecessary killings of Black people have been brought to the surface of our daily lives, we could get discouraged and wonder where God is or why he is allowing such bad things to happen. But we could also see that now is, in our lifetimes, a unique moment when the world might be open to receiving the truth about God's love for every person, his passion for justice, his willingness to suffer on our behalf, and the power for healing that he gives to the world through those who love and serve him.

We suffer from not being able to gather our whole congregation in our church building for worship, but maybe God is trying to tell us something. Maybe now is a time to stress that being the Church means a lot more than being in a building and worshiping God. What opportunities is God giving us to show

his love in the world? Let's keep our eyes and ears open, because when our world gets turned upside down, you can be sure, God is going to be up to something, and we might just be given the opportunity of a lifetime in the midst of these crises.

Faithfully,

Father Joe

### **A Note on Bible Study**

If you can, please join us for our Tuesday morning Bible study at 10:00 by way of Zoom. We are studying the lessons for the following Sunday. I don't know about you, but I am loving them. Several more people could join us, and we would not be too crowded. Give this a try, if you can, and see how it changes your week and your Sunday worship experience.

Father Joe

### **Spring Church Discoveries**

As your new Junior Warden, I have had the occasion to "visit" places in the church that I am not sure I ever knew existed, like the crawlspaces under the sanctuary and the room behind the organ. I have not made the trip up into the belfry yet but would like to!

While most of us have not had the opportunity to gather in the church during the last several weeks, there have been several of us taking diligent care of the building and grounds. One of the first things done was a cleaning and inspection of our aging HVAC systems. The older system serving Faith Hall was reaching the end of its lifespan and had developed leaks, losing gallons of expensive freon. After reviewing the options, the Mission Council approved replacing the system, rather than facing constant costly repairs to a system doomed to eventually fail. The other system fortunately still has life left in it. After a good cleaning and repairs to a pump and holes in the ductwork, it should last us a few more years. We also had ductwork added to the room behind the organ. This will help extend the life of the organ, not to mention keeping Deanie cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter!

The spring rains have meant beautiful blooms in our many flower gardens. It has also meant plenty of

weeds. I would like to thank Bill Rieger for helping with the mowing this season. I am also grateful to Sheila Flynn who helped me by identifying which plantings need thinning, which were weeds, and developing a fall planting plan to enhance our gardens. Did you know that our grounds are maintained purely by volunteers? Covid-19 kept us from having a scheduled workday this spring, but if you like working in the flower gardens or helping with other yardwork, please let me know as there is enough work to spread around.

We have also prepared for a phased re-opening of in-person worship at Grace Church. A professional service was hired to perform a CDC-approved cleaning of all areas inside the building. A team of volunteers has been organized to wipe down and disinfect shared areas before each service to keep our members safe.

I am enjoying the job of being your junior warden, at least on most days. If you have any questions or concerns or want to volunteer to help either inside or outside, please let me know.

Susan Austin, Junior Warden

### **Treasurer's Report for End of May 2020**

May was the month we really started to see the effects of the shutdown on our finances. Our total income was \$5,261 which was roughly \$2500 less than usual. This is not a surprise, given the challenges that faced many of our parishioners and the fact that the church building was all but closed for the entire month. On the expense side, we saw somewhat decreased costs with Susan Browning transitioning to be our remote keeper of the finances and some other operating costs being less since the building was essentially not in use.

Online giving accounted for about half of our regular monthly pledge income. It remains an easy and safe option for giving. You can use Realm or the link below:

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

We remain in a good cash position as noted below. We hope we all have weathered the worst of the pandemic but accurately predicting the future is not a skill set required of the treasurer.

Our prayers remain with those who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, or lost contact with the outside world. Our hope is that the future will be much brighter on all fronts.

Bank Balances as of 5/31/20

Checking	\$7,042
Savings	\$78,361
May Income	\$5,261
May Expenses	\$8,375

Ed Strong, Treasurer

### **Church Directory Support Needed**

We continue working and making progress on the Grace Church Selfie Directory. Many of you have responded, and I love seeing all your pictures. Members who haven't taken a moment, please pick up your cell phone and take a picture of yourself or you and your family and e-mail to [proberts000@charter.net](mailto:proberts000@charter.net) as soon as possible. Our purpose in assembling this directory is to increase our contact possibilities within our church family. **Our hopeful date for receiving all church selfies is Tuesday, June 30.**

Peggy Roberts

### **Quilting with Grace**

About two years ago Danette Olsen and I began making quilts for those in our church who were ill or bereaved. She made the top of the quilt, and I did the batting (the inside) and the backing. We wanted the entire congregation to be involved but did not know how to get the non-sewers to participate. A friend of mine from Virginia told me about the prayer quilt ministry at her church, and said that instead of machine quilting, they tied it every few inches with either yard or embroidery floss. The members of the church said a prayer for the recipient of the quilt each time they tied a knot. There was our answer! Since then, the quilts have been laid out on a table in Faith Hall, and members are able to pray and tie knots before and after our services on Sunday morning. My heart fills with gratitude every time I see our church family in prayer over these quilts!

If you would like to contribute, please do! You may donate fabric or batting, and if you enjoy sewing, please make some! There are no rules, just whatever colors you like, and whatever pattern you like. I make lap quilts, but whatever size you like to make is fine. My email is [dwrmoore@gmail.com](mailto:dwrmoore@gmail.com). (I have an embarrassingly large stash of fabric, so I can even provide you with fabric.)

Those who have received quilts are grateful beyond words and say over and over how comforting they are. The quilts are a physical reminder of your prayers. Thank you for your faithful prayers in this ministry.

Deanie Moore

### **Guide to Enriching Your Spiritual Life**

For the past two years the Grace Church Lenten book study has focused on a book by Jane Tomaine entitled, *St. Benedict's Toolbox*. Ms. Tomaine's book presents a study of the rule of St. Benedict including tools to use in the effort to bring The Rule into our daily lives.

As Christians we are all seeking valid spiritual guidance and ways to learn and do God's perfect will. This "how to" review of Benedict's rule provides guidance and food for thought as the readers undertake the journey to enrich their spiritual life and personal relationships at all levels.

The book explains that monasticism began in ancient Egypt in the third and fourth centuries. Although St. Benedict was not among the very first monastics, he played a key role in the expansion of this religious way of life. He was responsible for the establishment of 12 monasteries in Italy. As impressive as this is, Ms. Tomaine emphasizes an even more significant fact regarding Benedict. That fact is that Benedict's Rule had, and still has, tremendous influence on our Anglican worship. We share the Eucharist, Divine Office, and prayers as a religious community just as Benedict taught in his lifetime.

As we progressed through the book, we realized that a Benedictine journey has four goals to deepen our relationship with God. We desire to constantly live into our Baptismal Covenant, to follow Jesus's Great Commandment, and to meet the challenge of living as a Christian in today's world. Each of the 12

chapters of the book provides a tool in Benedict's toolbox that we can use to become more stable and obedient in our quest to live a Christ-centered life. In each chapter we found: the purpose of the tool, a rationale for the tool, and a step by step guide to using the tool. As we put the tools into practice, we found it much easier to seek God in community, to love God, to serve others, to embrace the "divine light" above, and to find God in the ordinary.

For anyone wanting to live a Christ-centered life, *St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living* can serve as a valuable resource. I recommend this book as an effective guide to understanding St. Benedict's Rule and how it has influenced the way we live and worship in the Episcopal Church.

Richard Hawarah

### **Cursillo, an Experience Centering on Christ**

As we were driving up to Monteagle for my Cursillo weekend, I started to leave behind the chaos of life. I looked to the chance to have a weekend filled with centering on Christ. My sponsor, Leslie, did not tell me much about what we would be doing during this weekend, but I knew it was going to be a special experience. By the end of the weekend, my life was changed forever!

What is Cursillo about? It begins on Thursday evening and goes until late Sunday afternoon in early October. The weekend gives an opportunity to re-discover the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ and the mission he has set for us to carry out. Gathering with the other candidates from all around the Diocese, as well as the volunteers of lay people and clergy, the time is filled with joy and Christian fellowship. Through talks given by both laity and clergy, one is given the chance to delve deep into their own faith in Christ and greatly build upon that faith to a whole new level. Although some of the weekend can be quite intense, it also holds plenty of time to rejoice and praise God, as well as time for quiet reflection.

Each possible candidate has a sponsor who has checked with the priest to see if he or she thinks that this person is at the right point in their Christian faith to attend the weekend. Then the sponsor talks with the potential candidate to see if they have an interest in going. The sponsor is someone who has attended

Cursillo and would like to invite someone else to share what some call a "mind-blowing" experience. The sponsor walks with the candidate as they prepare for their weekend, as well as praying for them before, during and after Cursillo.

After the weekend, one will find that there is an amazing bond that is shared amongst those who attend the weekend, as well as the other Curillistas in their church and throughout the Diocese. The bond is one of the loves of Christ.

During my weekend, I have never felt so surrounded by love from so many people. I hope and pray that you can experience this for yourself! If you are interested in learning more about Cursillo, please reach out to one of these members of Grace who have participated in Cursillo: James Dallas, Sheila Flynn, Lynn Rieger, Ed Strong, Toni Strong or Fr. Joe.

Lynn Rieger

### **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>.

