

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.

Dec. 21	St. Thomas the Apostle
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.
<b>Reservations for In Person Required</b>	
Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day
<b>Reservations Required</b>	
Dec. 26	St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
Dec. 27	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents
Jan. 6	Epiphany
Jan. 10	Annual Meeting
Jan. 23	Diocesan Convention held virtually

## 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 (Bible study will not be held Dec. 29th but will resume on Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup> .)
Tues. & Fri. at 7 p.m.	AA Meeting

**Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 10 after the 10:00 service in Faith Hall.** For confidentiality reasons, we will post the meeting to the congregation by way of YouTube when it is over. We will meet in the church, and it will be shorter than it has been in the past.

There will not be a meal. Confirmed members in good standing and present in person will vote to elect mission council members. Richard Hawarah, Jessica Farmer, John Harvey, and Fr. Joe are on the nominating committee, and the nominations should be announced before Christmas. We give thanks for the service of Richard and Jessica. Both have served for three years, so they are going off the mission council this January. Please notify Susan Austin if you plan to come to this meeting.

The diocesan convention will be held virtually on Saturday, January 23. Diann Schneider and Michelle Pomeroy are delegates, and John Harvey and Richard Hawarah are our alternates.

## Vicar's Vagaries Fr. Joe's Christmas Quiz

On Facebook, I am always seeing these quizzes that promise to reveal whether or not I am a genius, or which character from Star Wars I would be, or what my spirit animal should be. There's always something irresistible dangled out in front of me that tempts me to take the quiz. Who wouldn't want to know what Star Wars character he or she would be? And think how knowing your spirit animal could make a difference in your life!

Now that Advent is almost over, what we really need is a quiz that tests our knowledge about Christmas and Epiphany. You may not know the answers to all these questions, but simply knowing that some of these questions exist can win you popularity and respect at all those Christmas parties you should not be going to this year as you stay home, wash your hands, and avoid breathing anyone else's air.

Here is a quiz that was composed before Wikipedia or Google existed, in an age when no one had yet declared that the Twelve Days of Christmas end on

Christmas Day! As for the answers, I can guarantee you full credit for questions #19 and #20 if you put down anything at all. As for the rest, that's up to you, but I recommend using the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer, your Bible, your Ashby calendar, your Sunday school teacher, everybody in your house, and Google. And since you really can't afford to hurt the feelings of that nice digital assistant lady who may well have secret recordings of everything you have said for the last two or three years when watching the news and your favorite shows on television, you really should throw a couple of questions Alexa's way.

If you write out your answers (in sentences, please, so I can understand better) and return them to me by email at [jonormand@aol.com](mailto:jonormand@aol.com), I will add comments and return them to you. No number grades will be given! Without further ado, here it is....

1. Which of the four gospels tells of the Wise Men? How many are there?
2. In which gospel do angels sing to shepherds just outside Bethlehem?
3. What part of the Sunday Eucharist contains the words sung by the angels to the shepherds?
4. What line in the Nicene Creed mentions a biblical doctrine about Mary?
5. Which gospel calls the second person of the Holy Trinity "the Word" and says that "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us"?
6. Which gospel skips the birth of Jesus and goes straight to John the Baptist for its beginning?
7. Where in the Bible do we learn about the ox, the donkey, and the camels that are such familiar parts of the nativity scene and our Christmas cards? (There are 2 parts to this answer.)
8. Is there any sense in which God can be said to have a mother? If so, who is she? (Hint: look up the *Theotokos*.)
9. When did the Son of God enter our world physically?
10. What are the twelve days of Christmas? What are their dates?
11. What is the doctrine of the immaculate conception?
12. What is the doctrine of the virgin birth? Does it relate to the answer to question #11?
13. What is the etymology of the word *Christmas*?
14. Who are the Holy Innocents, and when does the Episcopal Church celebrate their feast?

15. What happened to Jesus on the Feast of the Holy Name, and when does this feast occur?
16. What animals were offered in the place of the baby Jesus at his presentation in the Temple forty days after his birth? (See Luke, chapter 2.)
17. Can you have "Christmas" even if you get no presents? How? (Hint: what did the Whos in Whoville do on Christmas morning?)
18. Where does Santa's hat come from? (Please don't say "the costume rental place.")
19. What is your favorite Christmas carol?
20. What is your favorite Christmas movie or story? And here's a brand-new question for the 2020 edition of the quiz:  
What do you especially appreciate about Christmas this year?

### **Joy to the World!**

Surprisingly, this hymn was not written for Christmas. Rather, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn as a paraphrase of the last five verses in Psalm 98 for his 1719 publication, *The Psalms of David Imitated*. In this hymnal, Watts rewrites many of the psalms using a Christological lens. His versification of Psalm 98 is no different. Verse nine of the Psalm reads, "let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the people with equity." Watts unapologetically interprets this as a reference to Christ. The theme of "Christ coming" made it an apt hymn to be sung at Christmastime, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas carols.

Albert Bailey writes, "It is one of the most joyous Christmas hymns in existence; not in the sense of merry-making but in the deep and solemn realization of what Christ's birth has meant to mankind" (*The Gospel in Hymns*). Watt's text has almost been left untouched by editors, with one exception. The line "far as the curse is found" is left out of many hymnals, since there is no reference to this curse in the actual psalm. However, when seen through the eyes of the New Testament and Gospel message, the reference to Genesis 3:17-18 becomes quite clear.

Shared by Deanie Moore from [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org)

## **John Aliano, RIP**

As I announced in an email last month, our beloved friend and long-term member John Aliano died at home on Monday, November 9 after a long illness. His wife Marie told me that he went peacefully, and she was relieved that now he is at rest. Though I was unfortunately not able to be with John and his family at the end, Marie and several family members commended John to God before he died with the prayers for the time of death from the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 462-465). He and Marie had been married 56 years.

When I think of John, I always remember his smile, his good humor, and his gentle, good-natured ways, even after he became ill. A memorial service at Grace Church will be held at a date to be announced. Anyone wishing to give a gift in memory of John may make a contribution to the memorial fund at Grace Church. An obituary for John, which contains much interesting information about him, may be found at <https://www.tnfunerals.com/obituary/john-aliانو>.

Father Joe

## **Christmas Programs Available Online**

Washington National Cathedral is bringing the glory of Christmas from the National Cathedral straight to you – no matter where you are. This year, with a one-time Christmas Season Pass registration you have online access to all the Cathedral’s Advent and Christmas services and concerts. Programs include: Blue Christmas Service, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. EST; Gospel Christmas Service, Dec. 18 at 6 .p.m. EST; Joy of Christmas Concert, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. EST, and Christmas Lessons & Carols on Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. EST.

The registration fee is \$10. For more information, visit the [tix.cathedral.org](http://tix.cathedral.org) or [cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org).

## **Grace Adopts Center of Hope Families**

As I wrote this article, we wrapped up this year’s involvement in the Center of Hope’s Christmas Adopt a Family program. The coordinator of the program assigned Grace Church two Maury county families, asking us to provide gifts for mothers and children who would not receive much at Christmas

without the support from churches like ours. The team at the Center of Hope asked that I pass along heartfelt thanks for the roughly 50 gifts we delivered to their collection center on Dec. 7. The list of this year’s givers is a long one and includes: Susan Austin, Charles Cochran, Carol Martinez, Laurie McNutt, James Dallas, Mama Flo Kline, John & Wanda Harvey, Michele & Dan Gibson-O’Grady, Toni & Ed Strong, Peggy & Dick Roberts, Jessica & Bryson Farmer, Lynn & Bill Rieger, Cheryl & Marty Cline, LaRue & Jerry Schmelzer and Richard & Marsha Hawarah.

This year’s requests ranged from socks to a bicycle. These gifts will brighten the Christmas holiday for needy but worthy members of our community. Again, thank you all very much and Merry Christmas.

Richard Hawarah

## **Treasurer’s Report November 2020**

November was a good month. Our income ran about where we have seen it for the past few months, but our expenses were a few thousand less than they had been running, as noted below. The expenses seemed to be lower across just about all our major spending categories, continuing to reflect reduced operating costs with our limited facility use.

### **November Financial Summary**

Income:	\$6,584
Anticipated Giving:	\$1,000
Total Income:	\$7,584
Expenses:	-\$7,783
<b>Diff:</b>	<b>-\$199</b>

### **Balance Sheet**

First Horizon Ckg. Acct.	\$4,450.39
First Horizon Sav. Acct.	\$66,127.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,316.95</b>
Sav. Acct. Breakdown	(\$66,127.42)
Organ Maint. Fund	\$23,500.00
Building Fund	\$34,540.00
Large Pledge Escrow Acct.	\$1,545.17
Undesignated Funds	\$6,542.25

As we approach the end of the year, please keep Grace Church in your prayers as we face, like so many others, very uncertain times.

On a personal note, this is the last newsletter article from me, as I am ending my three year term as treasurer. It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity. I hope we have provided helpful insights into the finances of our little church with the red door.

I offer a huge thank you to Susan Browning who has done a magnificent job of keeping our records. We have had a great working relationship that I will miss next year. Thank you, Susan.

David Thomas will be taking over as treasurer for 2021. David has served admirably as the assistant treasurer this year and is ready to step in. You may see different formatting because we all put our own stamp on our reports, but rest assured the church finances will be in good hands.

Ed Strong, Treasurer

### **End of 2020 Reminders**

First, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! This year has had its challenges and I know we are all praying for a new year of spiritual healing, abundant blessings from God, and new resolve to be the best we can be.

Here are a few reminders regarding giving to Grace Episcopal Church:

- If you take advantage of online giving, please be aware that all offerings for 2020 must be submitted online by no later than Dec. 31, 2020. Any offerings submitted online after Dec. 31 will be counted as year 2021 offerings.
- For those of you who do use the online giving application, please note that there are four giving options: 2020 Stewardship, Christmas, Memorials and Plate income. You may give to each of these four options individually.
- If you plan to write a check for the remainder of your 2020 Stewardship pledge or Christmas offering, please note that the check must be dated in 2020 and deposited in the bank no later than Jan. 10 for it to be credited to the year 2020.
- Reimbursement requests, invoices, etc. for the year 2020 must be turned in before Jan. 10. Anything submitted after Jan. 10 will be considered a 2021 expense.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [office@grace4sh.org](mailto:office@grace4sh.org). I am more than happy to offer any assistance you may need.

Susan Browning

### **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>,



p.s. I hope you all have fun with that quiz. I had a lot of fun putting it together! Maybe we can have a giant Zoom meeting and discuss the answers after Christmas. JND+