

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 6  
June 2022

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 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.*

## Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Mon.	1:00 p.m.	Creative Mondays (2 <sup>nd</sup> &4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays)
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Father Joe, <i>Office Hours</i>
Wed.	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist

## Newsletter Articles

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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.

<b>June 5</b>	<b>Day of Pentecost</b>
June 11	St. Barnabas

June 12	Trinity Sunday
June 19	Second Sunday after Pentecost Baptism of Peter Carper at 10:00 a.m.
June 24	Nativity of St. John The Baptist
June 26	Third Sunday after Pentecost
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Blessing food donation to The Well</b>
June 29	The Apostles Peter and Paul
July 3	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
<b>July 7</b>	<b>Ladies Luncheon</b>
July 10	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Vicar's Vagaries

A small covered porch protects the area above the front door to our house. This porch has just enough room for Door Dash to drop off a dinner delivery during a pandemic or for us to set out a Jack-o-lantern for trick-or-treaters in late October. At the top of our one small column inside the porch area, a bird family has made its home. My wife Cindy and I have watched the same (in my humble opinion) mama bird, nobly assisted at key moments by the daddy bird, raise two families of four baby birds in that nest.

All of this has happened since late March. The first four baby birds left the nest on Easter Day. On Holy Saturday, I saw the big baby birds flapping their wings and generally wreaking havoc on the peace inside the now crowded home of the bird family; by the time I returned home after church on Easter, the nest was abandoned. After a while, the mama bird was back sitting in that nest with a determined look on her face. I wondered, "Could she be laying more eggs?" I got my answer in a few weeks as I watched her and the daddy bird bringing in meals to the baby bird mouths that hungrily

reached out to get all they could from within the nest. The second four baby birds graduated to adult bird-life last week.

I keep checking the nest to see if anybody from the bird family comes back to collect something left behind, or to leave a note for their generous hosts (Cindy and me), or just to reminisce about old times. But those birds are long gone and won't return, unless perhaps the mother bird chooses the same place for a nest next spring.

I don't think birds do this, but I would gladly see a family reunion, with both parents and all eight young adults, along with any bird girlfriends or boyfriends. I know I am projecting human expectations onto a species very different from my own, but my imagination just goes there, and I can't really help it. Birds probably don't need to make a big deal out of family life the way people do. They celebrate life to the full extent possible every day just by living their normal bird lives.

I believe I can make an analogy between my hopes for a bird family reunion and God's desire to bring back together the human family. Think of God looking upon the whole human family, with all of us all over the globe going about our little human lives. Because he is God, he can see us all at once, all the time--a thought that totally boggles my mind, but why would God's knowledge be limited in any conceivable human way? And as God looks upon all of his children, those who know and love him and those who do not, for whatever reason, don't you think he longs to bring all his human creations together for a happy celebration of life together? I believe we get a glimpse of the Father's desire when Jesus looks upon Jerusalem and speaks of his desire to gather all the people of that city together as a hen wraps her wings around her brood of chickens, and as Jesus speaks of the sheep that are "not of this fold," and as Jesus tells of those who will believe because of the word of his disciples (John 17). There's also what Paul says in Romans 8 about how those who are baptized into Christ are inspired by the Holy Spirit within them to call upon God as their "Abba," or "Daddy." There's no doubt about it: regardless of how we feel about God, he reaches out to us as our Father, and he wants to fulfill us and

give us joy as members of his family in the Big House.

Pentecost is when God made a major step in his plan to bring us all back into happy life as his redeemed children. When he sent the Holy Spirit, he gave us his best way of bringing us into union with himself and one another in his Son. Now through the sacraments and through faith, we have life together in his family. So let's not be afraid of our heavenly Father; nor let us neglect to pay him regular visits and to talk to him every day. He wants to know everything about us, and he has so much to tell us, too. All of this will happen by the power of the Holy Spirit present in us, thanks to Pentecost and to the work of his disciples in the power of the Spirit given on that great day.

Father Joe

### **A Significant Act of Intercession**

Are you looking for a way to make a significant act of intercession for the people of Ukraine, for the parents of Russian soldiers killed in battle, for the victims of senseless acts of gun violence, or for those so deluded and angry that they will do whatever they can to hurt other people? Is there someone in your family or close to you for whom you would like to do something extraordinary in the way of prayer? Do you have a birthday or anniversary you want to give thanks for? You are invited to bring any such prayer concerns with you and lay them before God at the altar at the Wednesday noon celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Join with the angels and the archangels and all the company of heaven in praise and thanksgiving to God for all he gives to us in the offering of his Son Jesus upon the cross; and receive the sacrament of the body and blood of our savior as an extra offering of your time and energy, given for Christ's sake and the sake of someone else you care about, at this weekday opportunity for prayer.

Father Joe

### **Hymns of Pentecost Sing**

Coming from a non-liturgical background, learning about Pentecost and how it is recognized and celebrated is a joy. I knew about Pentecost, but Baptists approach it more from the gift of the Holy Spirit rather than as the Birthday of the Church.

What a beautiful thing to celebrate! For those of you who are not aware, the word Pentecost has Greek roots: pente means 5, and Pentecost is 50 days after Easter. The term Whitsun is also used, and when I Googled it, I discovered that the term comes from the word “white,” because new believers were traditionally baptized on Pentecost Sunday, and wore white robes.

There are only 8 hymns in our hymnal under the category of Pentecost, but there are 16 more under the category of the Holy Spirit. My favorite in the Pentecost section is #225, Hail Thee, Festival Day. It tells the story of Pentecost in clear, straightforward language, and it can make the singer feel as if they are witnessing the event.

In the Holy Spirit section, #510, “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove” by Isaac Watts is a favorite. It does not focus specifically on the event of Pentecost, but on the daily need we have of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There are several references to Pentecost, though: “kindle a sacred flame” in the first stanza reminds us of the tongues of fire that appeared on those gathered in prayer; the fourth stanza reminds us that the result of the gift of the Holy Spirit is the spread of the Gospel.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all thy quickening powers.  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
in these cold hearts of ours.

See how we trifle here below,  
fond of these earthly toys:  
our souls, how heavily they go,  
to reach eternal joys.

In vain we tune our formal songs,  
in vain we strive to rise:  
hosannas languish on our tongues,  
and our devotion dies.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all thy quickening powers.  
Come, shed abroad our Savior’s love,

and that shall kindle ours.

Happy birthday to the church!  
Deanie Moore, Music Director

### **Reestablished Finance Committee**

The Mission Council discussed earning interest on Grace’s cash assets and will refer this matter to our newly reestablished finance committee. This is the beginning of what the finance committee will do. More information will follow.

Diann Schneider, Senior Warden

### **Grace Order of Daughters of the King Meet**

We held our most recent meeting on May 24 in Faith Hall. Diann Schneider was our invited speaker to talk with us about the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and to give us an historical perspective. Each and every woman who is a member of Grace Church is by rights an ECW member. The purpose of ECW is to empower the women of the Episcopal Church to conduct Christ’s work throughout the world. The vision of ECW is: “As the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ in the world, we will persist in the work of healing, justice, and peace.” We will be having further discussions to learn how we might make this an active fellowship at Grace to further Christ’s work in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn or Sheila.

We were also visited by a former Daughter of Grace, Susannah Weber, who now is with the DOK chapter at St. Paul’s, Columbia, TN. It was good to have fellowship with her.

Lynn Rieger and I attended the Spring Assembly of the DOK at Good Shepherd Church in Brentwood, TN, with our Middle TN DOK members on April 23. It was a good chance to worship and fellowship with our sister Daughters. The morning began with Mass, followed by a business meeting, a guest speaker and a boxed lunch. The guest speaker was Joyce Pipkin who is site coordinator for Les Cayes et Cavaillon, Haiti. The program is e=h (education equals hope). We were invited to sponsor a child, join a mission team, and/or be a prayer partner. The program reaches out

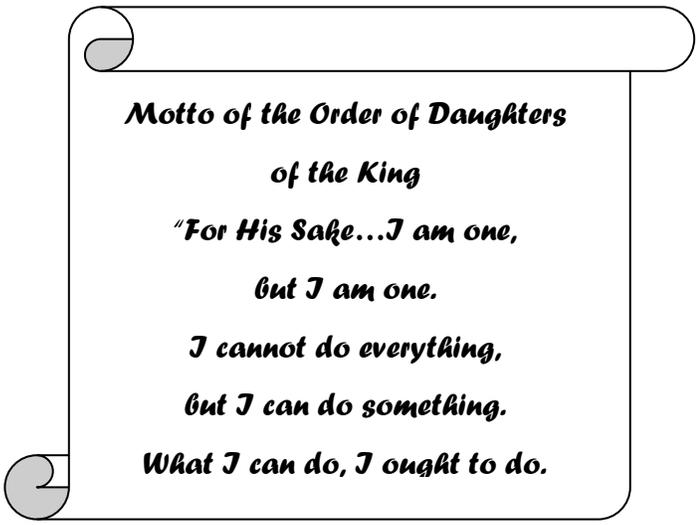
to 400+ students of all ages in the southern section of Haiti. Donations provide:

- \$30: school uniform for an orphan
- \$65: a hot lunch for a class for 1 week
- \$150: pays a teacher's salary for 2 months
- \$300: helps sponsor a high school student for 1 year

For more information, go online at: [www.educationequalshope.org](http://www.educationequalshope.org). Checks are payable to: "**Education Equals Hope**"; 102 Academy St., Fort Mill, SC 29715. Please note "**Les Cayes / Cavaillon Ministries**" in the memo line.

Joyce also asked for us to pray for a miracle of hope and peace to cover Haiti and especially their priest, Pere Pierre Auguste.

Our chapter members, Sheila Flynn, Laurie McNutt, Lynn Rieger and Carolyn Warnick, are actively involved in fulfilling our vows of prayer, service, and evangelization in a variety of ways. If you are interested in joining our DOK chapter, please reach out to one of our members.



Here are several prayers/meditations I've been praying lately which I'd like to share:

**My soul grows dry because it forgets to feed on you.  
John of the Cross**

**Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth. Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and**

**beauty and for the common good; for the sake of Him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. The Book of Common Prayer**

**O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness  
and we feel weak and helpless  
give us the sense of Your presence  
Your love, and Your strength.  
Help us to have perfect trust  
in Your protecting love  
and strengthening power,  
so that nothing may frighten or worry us  
for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand.  
Your purpose, Your will through all things.  
Amen. Saint Ignatius of Loyola**

Sheila Flynn, President DOK

**Grace Ladies Enjoy Luncheons**

The ladies of Grace began having monthly luncheons in August of 2021, but we had to pause due to the Covid pandemic. We are so happy to be able to gather again!

We had lunch at Olive Garden in April with seven or eight ladies attending. In May, we had 15 hungry ladies at Grecian Family Restaurant and Bakery. In June six ladies dined at Highway 55 and enjoyed fellowship, burgers and salads. All of these restaurants provided great food and great service.

On July 7, we will have the next luncheon at 12 noon. The location is to be decided. I hope many of you can join us!

Laurie McNutt, Congregational Life

**See the Good News**

April was a great month for Grace and a promising start to the 2nd quarter of 2022. With the increasing attendance and new "seats in the seats", this could well be a good year for finances. With revenues at \$15,696.82 and expenses of \$8,148.44, we had a positive balance of \$7,548.38 for the month.

Not only were we in the black for April, but we are also in the black for the 1st quarter. As of the end of April, our total donations equal \$47,573.92. Our expenses for the same period were \$36,364.62, leaving a positive balance of \$11,209.30. The

information below is based on Grace's financial standing as of the end of April (most recent available).

**Finances for April are as follows:**

Pledged gifts:	\$12,222.00
Plate gifts:	\$1,518.00
Special gifts:	\$1,856.82
<b>Total donor gifts:</b>	<b>\$15,596.82</b>
Facilities rental:	\$100.00
<b>Total revenue:</b>	<b>\$15,696.82</b>
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>\$8,148.44</b>
<b>Net total:</b>	<b>\$7,548.38</b>

**Banking balances:**

Checking balance:	\$10,339.09
Savings balance:	\$48,267.17

**Breakdown of savings:**

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated fund:	\$4,116.78
Interest earned:	\$0.39

**Total Assets:** **\$58,606.26**

David Thomas, Treasurer

**Grace Mission Council Meeting – April 27, 2022**

Treasurer's Report: For March 2022, expenses exceeded revenue by \$875.95.

Vicar's Report: Holy Week was well attended. Services were well-attended.

Potluck event has been set for May 15<sup>th</sup>, after church. Alicia Fitts will be asked to speak on the history of Grace Church.

The duties for the Mission Council Member of the Day were discussed. Further discussion was tabled until May 2022 meeting.

The Vicar's Letter Agreement will be reviewed and updated as needed.

The finance committee has been asked to review interest rates earned on cash assets. Bill Rieger and John Harvey have agreed to serve on the committee.

Sr. Warden: Diann Schneider reported that over 50 Easter Offering letters and envelopes were prepared and mailed to members.

Jr. Warden: The cottonwood tree next to the building has been trimmed.

HVAC check has been completed. Tethered covers for the compressor units have been ordered to keep leaves and debris out of the units.

All fire alarm batteries have been changed out. An outside light needs to be replaced.

The (Spring Hill) Town Center Redevelopment Committee is kicking off State One of work on Old Town. Grace will have someone there to attend.

Plans for refurbishing the organ were revisited.

The grant application from the Maury County Historical Society is due in May. Diann and Susan will complete and submit the application.

**Ministry Activities**

Children's Ministry and Christian Education: Curriculum examples have been ordered. The plan is to restart in June.

Communications: Carol is still serving as Stewardship Chair while the work is completed. Facebook and Grace Notes are still in the regular work for this ministry.

The Mission Council needs a plan to regularly check the church's answering machine, to ensure timely response to information requests.

Outreach: Since February 1, 2022, Grace donations to The Well have totaled 312 pounds.

The proper use of Grace's security system will be reviewed with all who have access to the facilities.

Congregational Life: Ladies Luncheon was held on April 7, 2022, at the Olive Garden.

Daughters of the King flowered the cross for Easter morning.

Members should be contacted about bringing food for the Potluck.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a blessing by Fr. Joe.

**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**

Diann Schneider, Senior Warden  
Susan Austin, Junior Warden  
David Thomas, Treasurer  
Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life  
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach  
Carol Martinez, Communications  
Will Pomeroy, Christian Education

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

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

