

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

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September 2020

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.

Sept. 21 St. Mathew, Apostle & Evangelist  
Sept. 29 St. Michael & All Angels  
Oct. 4 St. Francis of Assisi Day  
Oct. 11 at 1:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, south church yard  
Oct. 19 St. Luke the Evangelist

## Services and Continuing Events

Sun. at 10 a.m. In-person service at Grace, email Susan Austin to reserve physical distancing seating, [sjanawicz@aol.com](mailto:sjanawicz@aol.com).  
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 cancelled Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6. Resume 10/13.  
Tues. & Fri. at 7 p.m. AA Meeting

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

Sundays at 8 and 10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
(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

### **How We Keep Ourselves Going in a Time of Pandemic**

September 15, 2020

We all have learned new things to do, or new ways to do old things, in order to keep ourselves going since March. Here are some ideas I have tried or contemplated.

1. Learn something new or learn more about something you already care about. I took up hitting tennis balls against the wall of the nearest school, but only during the hours when they are not teaching behind that wall. I almost got sent to the principal's office last Saturday for disrupting class—though I am not sure any students were on campus. I am learning how to play "Sweet Baby James" on the guitar, a song I have known since I was 12, but I never learned to play it.

2. Sing in the shower and when getting dressed. I use Spotify to find music I want to hear and play it through a Bluetooth speaker in the bathroom. I mostly play James Taylor, Mark Knopfler, Joni Mitchell, and Ry Cooder. When I sing Joni Mitchell, I sing at least one octave lower than she does. The Shower singing police have thus far let me be. Cindy has been able to stay far enough away to maintain sanity.

3. Cook a new recipe for some really good food. Make enough for leftovers or share with others. Enjoy the whole process because you are able to buy food, cook it, and eat it. This is a way of giving thanks for what you have. Wanting what you have is sometimes better now than trying to get what you want, though even that can be good when done in moderation. We have taken up ordering meals

delivered from the Mexican restaurant down the street. It supports the economy, and it is awfully easy, when the app works right.

4. Organize family photos. Scan them into a scanner and write captions giving names of people, place, date, and information about what is happening. Send the digital photo album to family members you can't be with now. Celebrate good times you have had; redeem the time you have spent with others.

5. Do a house or yard project. I am contemplating buying a pole saw and trimming tree branches away from the house. I hope to do this in the coming month. You don't have to tell Cindy I actually put this in writing.

6. Keep a regular time for Bible reading, prayer, and meditation. Early morning, before my day gains momentum, works best for me. Praising God is something I need to do daily, and the prayers in Morning and Evening Prayer in the BCP give me what I need to say. Plus, I am praying with the Church all over the world, though I am praying alone in my house. My isolation is overcome through the life of the Church at prayer.

7. Give yourself or a family member a haircut.  I just had my third.

8. Go outside as much as possible. Hike, pull weeds, grow grass, grow flowers, sit on your patio, or study stars and planets. It's a bit late in the season, but you can still put up a hummingbird feeder and watch hummingbirds come and enjoy your gift to them. These amazing creatures never fail to lift my spirits. The zinnias Cindy grew from seed are new life and beauty she brought about, and the bees and butterflies love them. Be good to bees and butterflies. We depend on them for plants to reproduce.

9. Listen to a book on Libravox.com, an app for your cell phone or computer. Many books are free, especially classics. I loved *The Warden*, a book about life in the Church of England in the Victorian Age. Anthony Trollope is the author, and he wrote a whole series. I had better stop there, or I could cut into your reading—or listening—time.

10. Study a major issue you find pressing or baffling. For me, such issues have been the real causes of the Civil War, what is Jim Crow all about, what happened in the Civil Rights Movement and whether it is over, how the Republican Party has been

transformed, and how can we contribute to slowing the heating up of the planet.

I could go on, but this seemed like a good place to stop. What has worked for you? Please write, and we could put together an article for Grace Notes based on the responses.

Father Joe

### **Leading Us Forward, Past and Future**

by John Harvey, Sr. Warden

I recently embarked on a new adventure. I signed up to help with the 2020 Census last year. I heard nothing for some time and had almost forgotten about it. Then several months ago I was contacted and informed I had been selected to go through the vetting and hiring process. Census Day was officially April 1, 2020, so it was apparent there would be a tremendous rush to meet the deadline (or so I thought).

As we all know, our world has changed. Like everyone else, the Census Bureau had to adapt and revise their processes to accommodate online training, social distancing, etc. This was quite a proposition for an agency of its size and such a massive project. Having spent a lot of my business career involved in project management, I can appreciate the difficulty, especially when all the governmental regulations are factored in. Eventually, everything was rolled out and the work began.

I have been working as an “enumerator,” calling on the public and taking a count of all the persons living at an address on April 1, 2020. It has given me some insight as to how people are struggling trying to achieve some normalcy in the current situation. I cannot imagine trying to work from home while 3 or 4 children try to adjust to online learning, and possibly an energetic toddler burning off energy during it all. I have interviewed seniors essentially sheltering in who are glad to see a census worker they can have some conversation with, however brief it might be.

All this has led me to reflect on the trials and tragedies I've seen up close in my lifetime: massive hurricanes like Camille in 1969, and Katrina in 2005 that left me without power for ten days in the August heat, a tornado that destroyed the building housing

my hometown church's Sunday School rooms and priest's office, catastrophic flooding, and now this insidious pandemic we are experiencing. Each of these has presented a set of circumstances that made recovery seem terribly daunting tasks. Looking back at those in the past gives me some degree of comfort as we confront the present situation. In each instance the one constant I can remember being able to rely on was the Church and our Lord's love as we struggled through.

I believe in my heart that we will come through this pandemic. The massive efforts of our healthcare workers, public agencies, armed services, and private industry have probably not been seen since World War II. It's amazing that we can build a hospital in a matter of days. Just as in the past, I believe the Lord will lead us through these trying times. Our Grace family has done an amazing job of staying connected and supportive of each other.

At Laurie McNutt's recent induction into the Daughters of the King, I was struck by the feeling of joy from those who were attending in house worship for the first time in what seems like forever. Just a few more faces changed the feeling in the entire service. I look forward to the day we can all gather again. In the meantime, please stay safe, be patient, and stay in touch. And remember, if a census worker comes to your door, please greet them with a smile!

### **New Sign on Display at Grace**

The front yard of Grace Episcopal Church is now home to a new sign allowing the church to have a greater connection to the community. The sign was generously donated by Ellen Booth in memory of her husband, Elwood Frederick "Bud" Booth, Jr. In addition to the sign, the Booths also gave a donation to replace the lighting in Faith Hall.

The old sign was beyond repair, according Susan Austin, Grace Church junior warden and supervisor of the new sign project. "We wanted something that would draw in people who are curious about the church and may want to visit and join us," she said.

Larger writing is featured on the new sign so it can be better seen by people who are traveling down Main Street. Also, environmentally friendly solar spotlights allow the sign to be seen at night allowing

the story of Grace to be told seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

A dedication ceremony for the new sign will take place sometime this fall. The sign was made by Signs First of Franklin.

Carol Martinez

### **A Story of Hymns and Homeschooling**

Homeschooling is a big topic right now – whether you have always taught your children at home, or you are supervising them as they attend school virtually.

How is instructing children at home connected to hymns? Good question! One of the most gifted hymn writers was Charles Wesley. Hymns that inspire us today such as "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise," "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," were written by him. Hymnologists say that he wrote thousands in his lifetime.

Charles and his brother John (who founded Methodism) and their siblings were homeschooled by their mother, Susanna Annesley Wesley. She was very well-educated and deeply spiritual, giving her children a solid foundation. Included in their daily studies of languages, science, and math, they sang Psalms, read the Bible, and learned theology.

There were 19 children in the family, and 10 survived into adulthood. Out of necessity, Susanna was a highly organized mother, and wrote her own teaching method books. She had a list of about 20 rules for her children, and the top 3 were to Love God, to Work Hard, and to Cry Softly!

Her teaching continued after her children were grown. Many of her letters to her adult children are theological treatises, sharing what she had learned through decades of her own study and prayer.

I hope that you have enjoyed learning about Susanna Wesley. If you would like to find out more details, there are many websites you can find through Goggle. I encourage you to do a search and get to know her better!

Deanie Moore

## **Grace Financial Status August 2020**

Through the eight months of what has been a rough year for many, Grace Church is holding up. No one seems to know how long COVID-19 will be with us, but we have a loving and dedicated church family that ensures we will sustain. We had a wonderful response to helping our own with the donations toward supporting Susan Browning upon the passing of her brother. Thank you very much.

Online giving through the Grace website has really increased this year – I am one of those that switched. It is extremely easy, and I chose the weekly payments. It really takes the thinking out of tithing and I don't have to remember to write a check!

Due to the reduced costs from less live participation, our expenses have continued at a lower rate. July was the first month in some time that our income exceeded expenses. Although that is not true of August, thankfully the shortfall was small.

Our year to date financial summary, as of Aug. 31 is:

|          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Income   | \$61,500 - \$6,832.36 under budget    |
| Expenses | \$73,884.38 - \$8,275.70 below budget |

Pledged income is \$5,284 below what was budgeted for the year and plate income is \$1,548.36 below budget. The lower plate income is no surprise due to the much reduced in person attendance, particularly in the Spring.

Again, keep in mind the online giving option and particularly setting regular payments to match your pledge. It is easy and takes the Sunday morning thinking out of it.

David Thomas, Assistant Treasurer

## **Grace Selfie Directory**

We have had lots of cooperation and support from the members of Grace collecting pictures and information for the Directory project. We are near completion and with some diligent editing support, we hope to release the booklet sometime in October. I am sure we will all feel more informed and more comfortable knowing our Directory will allow us to interact more freely with our Grace family during COVID-19 and this winter's chilly months.

Peggy Roberts

## **Technical Notes**

We have added a "Technical Support" page to our Web site with instructions for installing the Facebook app on common devices. This may be helpful to anyone interested in joining our Facebook group. Additional instructions and demos will be added as needed. The address for that page is: <https://graceepiscopalspringhill.org/2020/08/10/technical-support-page/>

Streaming of our Sunday services has moved from our now-defunct Facebook page to our Facebook discussion group. Please join our group if you have not done so already. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/167751256593068/>

James Dallas

## **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>.

