

Grace Episcopal Church
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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.

Oct. 23	St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Oct. 28	St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles
Nov. 1	All Saints' Day
Nov. 2	All Souls/All the Faithful Departed
Nov. 22	The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 29	The First Sunday of Advent

Services and Continuing Events

Sun. at 10 a.m.	In-person service at Grace, email Susan Austin, sjanawicz@aol.com , to reserve physical distance 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
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
2nd & 4th Mon. Creative Monday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Vicar's Vagaries

October 21

On our patio, there are some tall flowers growing out of pots in various places. My wife Cindy tells me they are zinnias. She says she planted some of them from the seeds of last year's zinnia flowers. They are happy flowers, and they made butterflies and bees happy all summer.

They are there because Cindy harvested the seeds from last year's flowers and planted them in soil last spring. They grew from tiny little specks into tall flowers with stems of four or five feet. That was exactly what she believed would happen when she prepared the soil in the pots and planted the seeds. Her belief preceded the act of planting. Because she acted on her belief, these flowers are living things in the world today.

Every act of planting seed is an act of faith. It is based on the belief that, when put in the right environment, seeds will germinate; and that, with warmth and moisture, their outer shell will soften and give way to a new plant that will come to life, sprouting tendrils that will reach into the soil and grow, sending roots down into the dirt and a stem up towards the light.

Every act of planting seed is an act of hope. It is based on the expectation that something good and beautiful can come from a tiny beginning, and that if one does his or her part, the rest of the world will do its part, and a new plant can grow and bear fruit. Good things have happened when seeds were planted before, so good things ought to happen again. The soil, the rain, the sun, and the air will do their part, if we only do ours.

Every act of planting seed requires a kind of surrender. One must leave the seeds alone, for they will never grow if they are dug up every couple of days and examined to see if anything is happening.

They must be given up by those who hope for new life to proceed from them. They must be sacrificed in love so they can have their own, separate lives.

Jesus told several parables about planting seeds and about how they grow. He taught that the planting and growth of seeds shows us much about the kingdom of God. What do our acts of planting seed now show about the kingdom of God?

They show that we believe God will take our acts of seed planting and bring fruit of them in the future. They show we believe there will be a future full of life and goodness and beauty. They show that we are determined to last through the winter to spring, and that we hope for a good future that will include goodness and beauty and grace. They show that we accept reality today but that we also intend to change the world for the better by making our own contribution to the creation of new life and fresh beauty.

Our acts of love towards one another and our offerings to God are our ways of planting seeds that will bear fruit in the future. They mean we continue to hope and to love and to believe that what we do, even the trivial things we do on our patios, can make a difference in the world for the better.

Last Sunday, we held the baptism of Barrett Ka'imi Pono Pomeroy, son of Will and Michelle Pomeroy. If you did not see it, you should be able to find it on our Facebook Group page or on our YouTube page. In that little ceremony, a few of us gathered to plant seeds of new life in another young child of God. Barrett seemed to enjoy himself quite a bit at the service. He certainly was dazzled by his baptismal candle, a symbol of the light of Christ now lit in him. I pray that he will be strong in the Lord in the days to come. May he grow in Christ daily more and more; and may Christ grow in him.

Father Joe

Bishop's Newsletter Available

The Bishop's Blast is a weekly email newsletter about what is happening in the Diocese of Tennessee. The current issue includes information on 189th Convention of The Diocese of Tennessee that will take place on Jan. 23, 2021. To subscribe to the newsletter, you can visit edtn.com and click on the Sign Up Today button on the homepage.

Barrett Pomeroy Baptized at Grace

Holy baptism, when God adopts a new child into his eternal family, is one of the most joyous sacraments of the Church. Barrett Ka'imi Pono Pomeroy, son of Will and Michelle Pomeroy, was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 18 at Grace Episcopal Church. Barrett's Godparents are Robert Pomeroy, Ka'eo Morales, and Godmother Nayeli Morales.

Barrett, whose middle name means Seeker of Righteousness, celebrated his first birthday on Oct. 17 with his parents, godparents and grandparents. The baptism service was attended by family only and was broadcast on the Grace Facebook page and YouTube Channel. It is still available for viewing.

By Carol Martinez

A Pleasant Surprise

It seems there are always maintenance and improvement projects of varying size begging for attention around the church and grounds. This is not a situation unique to Grace, but churches from the 1800's do require a bit more loving care. We have been blessed to have dedicated Jr. Wardens, both past and present, serving since I have been around. I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to recognize that service. I thank them collectively for their efforts.

Two of the most recent projects involved the resurrection of our beloved bell and the belfry, and replacement of our church sign. Our current Jr. Warden, Susan Austin, and I spent quite a bit of time trying to locate a contractor we felt had the ability, as well as the equipment to complete the bell and belfry project safely and suitably. We were fortunate to find a gentleman who had previously performed work at Grace and had a new manlift that was a perfect fit for the job. In short order, the bell was put back in working order, the belfry caulked and painted, and even quite a bit of limb trimming accomplished. At the same time, Susan had the sign replacement working on a parallel track, and it was subsequently completed.

We did receive some unwelcome news during the process. The cross atop the belfry is rotted beyond repair and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Recognizing the uncertainty of life in a pandemic and its effects on the livelihoods of many in our

community, any unexpected expense leaves me concerned about how it will be covered. I admit that I need to improve my faith that what we need will be provided.

Sometime later I was going through the mail at the office and came across an envelope from the Maury County Historical Society. It contained a letter announcing the Maury County Historical Society's 2020 Grant Program with attached application. It stated, "One of the objectives of the Maury County Historical Society is to identify and preserve sites in Maury County which are important to its history. In this regard, an annual grant program was established to help local historical sites financially with preservation projects." After reviewing the list of qualifying criteria, I determined Grace would be eligible to apply for a grant to defray the costs incurred in our project as churches are eligible "if the funds will be used for the preservation of the original structure that pre-dates 1900." With Susan's help in gathering supporting documentation, I completed the grant application and mailed it off in late May for consideration by the awards committee.

I was pleasantly surprised when, in a letter dated September 10, 2020, we were invited to attend the Maury County Historical Society's September 20, 2020, membership meeting to accept a check to Grace Episcopal Church for \$1000 as one of six grants awarded this year. The meeting was held at the Athenaeum Rectory, recently reopened after extensive restoration and renovation. The Athenaeum is located at 808 School Street in Columbia and served as the rectory for two girl's schools that operated in the area from the 1830's until the Great Depression. Members from Grace in attendance included me, Susan Austin, and Alicia Fitts.

Please join me in extending thanks to the Historical Society for honoring us with this grant (and placing another brick in "my wall of faith that our needs will be met"). You can find out more about the Maury County Historical Society at www.historicmaury.com.

Christ's Peace,

John Harvey, Sr. Warden

Grace Organ Has Stories to Tell

The organ in Grace Episcopal Church has some wonderful stories to tell. For the past few years, I have had the pleasure of telling people who are on the Spring Hill Art Walk about it. They are on the walk through the community to see displays of paintings, textiles, pottery, etc., and are generally surprised that someone is prepared to play the organ and tell them about the instrument as they walk through the sanctuary to Faith Hall to see more art objects.

As I understand it, the organ was installed about 10 years after the church was consecrated, so in the late 1880s. It was built by a company named Pilcher, which was based in Louisville, KY. The Pilcher family came to the United States from Dover, England in 1832, and opened an organ-building shop in Newark, N.J. There were moves to New York, Chicago, and St. Louis; in about 1880 the third generation of Pilcher's opened shop in Louisville where they remained until 1944 when it was sold to the Moeller Organ Company.

When the organ was installed at Grace there was no electricity in the building, so the bellows had to be pumped by hand. The story says that children from the school across the street were hired each Sunday to pump the organ and were paid a nickel for their service. In the chamber behind the organ there is still the long handle that was used to pump the bellows, and many of the youngsters signed their names on the walls! Some even left the date – the latest I have seen was 1926.

There is a draw knob on the console that says "signal." We do not know what the signal was, but it let the child know that they needed to start pumping so that the bellows would fill, and the organist could play.

Our organ is not a concert instrument – it does not have multiple manuals (the keyboard), or a variety of pipes that provide different sounds. It has a nice, full sound that is perfect for hymn-singing, and that is what I miss the most now. Even though I am still able to come to church, provide music for the service, and worship with my sisters and brothers in Christ, I miss hearing your voices raised in song.

Looking forward to the day when we will be singing together again, led by the sweet sound of our beloved church organ!

Deanie Moore

Treasurer’s Report September 2020

In September, Grace received a \$1,000 grant from the Maury County Historical Society to support our bell tower restoration efforts. This reflected in our September income shown below. Without that September would have been an unusually low-income month.

September Financial Summary/
Nine Month Summary

Income	\$7455/\$73,679
Anticipated Giving	\$1,000/\$3,000
Total Income	\$8,455/\$76,679
Expense	\$8,968/\$82,852
Dif.	-\$513/- \$6173

A few comments on the nine-month summary are in order:

- We have only had to take \$3,000 from savings once this year, to shore up our operating budget. That is much less than we anticipated.
- Our expenses are running about \$10,000 less than we budgeted. Two main factors account for that difference. We have the unfilled administrative position still open and our regular operating expenses have been much lower than projected since we have limited on premise activities.
- We did take \$8,000 from the Building Fund in April for the new heat pump for Faith Hall. That is not reflected in the nine-month summary. Its impact is reflected in our current cash summary below.
- We remain in a solid cash position through the generous support of a loving congregation.

Balance Sheet

First Horizon, CKG A/C	\$8,321.66
First Horizon, SVG A/C	\$72,205.69
Total	\$80,527.35
SVG A/C Breakdown	\$72,205.69
Organ Maintenance Fund	\$23,500.00
Building Fund	\$34,540.00

Large Pledge Escrow Account	\$4,629.17
Undesignated Funds	\$9,536.52

Ed Strong, Treasurer

Stewardship Update

Giving Statements for the third quarter of 2020 have been mailed. If you did not receive a statement or have any questions or comments regarding your statement, please direct your inquiries to Susan Browning at office@grace4sh.org, and you will receive a response in a timely matter. Thanks to all for your continued support of Grace Episcopal Church during these challenging times.

Grace Selfie Directory

We are incredibly happy to report the Grace Directory is complete and should be in everyone’s possession in October. We certainly could not have completed this without the helpful cooperation of everyone. Thank you, Peggy Roberts

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>.

