

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. Information on activities and programs at Grace will be sent to you via email and Facebook.

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| March 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Lenten Evening Prayer |
| March 19 | | St. Joseph's Day |
| March 20 | | Bishop's Day with Wardens, Vestries, & Treasurers |
| March 25 | | Annunciation |
| March 28 | | Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday |
| April 1 | 6:00 p.m. | Maundy Thursday Service |
| April 2 | 3:00 p.m. | Good Friday Service |
| April 3 | | Holy Saturday |
| April 4 | 10:00 a.m. | Easter Day Service |

Services and Continuing Events

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| Sun. at 10 a.m. | To attend in-person, email Susan Austin, sjanawicz@aol.com to reserve physically distanced seating. |
| Sun. at 10 a.m. | Facebook Live Service Broadcast |
| Sun. at 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour via Zoom |
| Tues. at 10 a.m. | Bible Study via Zoom |
| Tues. & Fri. at 7 p.m. | AA Meeting |

Vicar's Vagaries:

Holy Week and Easter in the Pandemic, II

This is the second year we will be having Holy Week and Easter services during the pandemic. Last

year, we weren't gathering in person, but we had music. Now, we are allowing up to around 24 people into the church, but we are not singing. As more people receive their vaccinations, it could be that more will begin coming soon. Flo Kline is back, having had both of her shots, and we are extremely glad to see her! As before, our services will be broadcast on Facebook Live from our Facebook group page; and they will be posted on YouTube.

For **Palm Sunday**, we will have one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 28. We will begin with the palm liturgy, have a dramatic reading of the Passion According to Mark, and celebrate the Eucharist in this first service of Holy Week. Then on **Maundy Thursday**, April 1, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the church to celebrate the Eucharist. The stripping of the altar will conclude the service. At this service, we will all remember that night when Christ celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples and told them to "Do this to recall my presence among you." See First Corinthians 11:23-26, which is perhaps the oldest extant version of the words of Jesus himself at that last gathering on the night before he was crucified.

On **Good Friday** at 3:00, April 2, we will gather for the solemn liturgy of Good Friday, with the liturgy of the word, the dramatic reading of the Passion According to John, a sermon, the Solemn Collects of Good Friday, and the Veneration of the Cross. There is no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday.

On **Easter Day**, April 4, we will gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at 10:00 a.m. By that time, there may be many signs around us of the beginning of recovery from the coronavirus, and the natural world should be in full bloom. While good feelings of new freedom and new life may be all around us, there is no new beginning that compares to the victory of Jesus Christ over the grave when he was raised from the dead.

We will continue to celebrate the Easter Season through **Pentecost**, which will be Sunday, May 23 this year. **Ascension Day** will be Thursday, May 13.
Father Joe

Easter Lilies to Be on Display at Grace

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of Easter lilies in honor of anyone, in memory of a friend or loved one, or to the glory of God, please write your check to the church with “Easter Lilies” on the memorandum line. Please contact Linda Colmore for more information.

The lilies will be used to decorate the church for Easter services. The Easter lily is a representative of Christ’s resurrection, it symbolizes purity, hope and innocence of new life.

Pastoral Note

Our beloved sister and friend Marie Aliano died on February 11. Here is a slightly edited version of the obituary that appeared in *The Daily Herald*.

Marie was born in Brooklyn, New York. She was the daughter of the late Michael and Mary Vitale Speruta. She married her husband of 57 years, John Aliano, on September 26, 1964 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He preceded her in death on November 9, 2020. She worked in a school cafeteria in Florida where she and John lived before moving to Tennessee. While in Tennessee, Marie was a member of the Spring Hill Senior Center. She went often to Kroger, where the employees adored her, and she enjoyed watching television and being with her grandchildren. She was a member of Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill, TN.

May she rest in peace and let light perpetual shine upon her. We are hoping to have a memorial service for her and John at a later date.

Father Joe

Lenten Program

We will have Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. on the Wednesdays in Lent by way of Zoom. We began on February 24. I will make the link available to those who want to come. This service takes about 25 minutes. I will involve volunteer lesson readers if anyone would like to help. I will also lead you

through in case you aren’t familiar with the service or have forgotten parts of it.

We will continue the Zoom Bible study at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. (*Remember, the vicar will be away 3/8-3/17, so there’s no Bible study or EP during that time.*)

Lenten Hymn Includes the Glory of Easter

“Lord, who throughout these forty days”

The Hymnal 1982, #142

Text: Claudia Frances Hernaman

Tune: St. Flavian

Most of you know that I was born and raised a Baptist, so the Liturgical Year was not something I grew up on. Yes, we had services on Good Friday, but the season of Lent was not something we observed.

As I have learned about Lent, I have come to love the time of introspection and penance. One of the most meaningful hymns of Lent is “Lord, who throughout these forty days” by Claudia Frances Hernaman. She was born and raised in Surrey, England, the daughter of an Anglican priest. She married a minister and devoted her life to the spiritual education of children. She wrote about 150 hymns, mostly for children, including some that she translated from the Latin.

“Lord, who throughout these forty days” is based on the account of the temptation of Jesus, found in Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, and Luke 4:1-13. In this hymn Christ’s life is a model for his followers, and how we should respond to temptation. The first two lines of each stanza tell of Jesus’ temptations, and the last two lines encourage us to model our behavior on Christ’s example.

The themes of Lent are in each stanza: fasting and prayer; struggle with Satan and sin; dying to self, and meditation on scripture; penance; and looking toward the joy of Easter.

This hymn is different from most of our Lenten hymns in that it doesn’t focus solely on the penance of Lent, but also leads us to the glory of Easter. I hope this hymn will be a part of your personal time of prayer and worship during these forty days.

Deanie Moore

Grace Church Contributes to The Well

The Well is a highly effective and valued Christian based feed-the-needy program right here in Spring Hill. Since 2006 The Well has served as a food pantry with the goal of showing God's love by giving food to those in need.

Grace Church has been a consistent contributor in the effort to feed needy persons by making monthly food and monetary donations to The Well's distribution center south of our location on Main Street. Contributing food to The Well is quite easy for members of Grace Church. There is a bin located in the parish hall in which food items of any kind can be deposited. These food items are taken to The Well during the month and monthly totals are reported by the outreach liaison during monthly Mission Council meetings. The well also accepts online donations.

Grace Church has recently completed a record year of giving to The Well. In 2020 we contributed more than 1,000 lbs. of food in the effort to feed needy people in our area. These 1,000 lbs. of food were in addition to monetary donations made during the year. Thanks to everyone who donated in 2020. Your support is appreciated by the staff at The Well. Each month when our contributions are delivered, we are warmly greeted by the folks at The Well. We are always asked to thank everyone at Grace for our support.

As food needs are constant, The Well is continually involved in fund raising. This Spring they have scheduled a special event. It is a concert featuring "Casting Crowns", a popular contemporary Christian group. The concert is scheduled for Friday, April 2 at historic Rippavilla Plantation. Information and tickets for this exciting concert can be obtained on the internet by going to The Well Outreach.

Please continue to remember those in need as you shop for groceries in 2021. Your food contributions to The Well through Grace Church will serve as a constant blessing to needy people in the Spring Hill area.

Richard Hawarah

Financial Update for End of January 2021

Grace Church's revenue for January fell a bit short of expenses, but not greatly. Expenses were normal for January. The cost of natural gas was higher because of the extreme cold earlier this year.

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| Total revenue: | \$7,330.00 |
| Total expenses: | \$8,665.00 |
| Monthly balance: | -\$1,335.00 |

First Horizon accounts on January 31st:

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| Checking balance: | \$5,503.82 |
| Savings balance: | \$67,591.13 |
| Total checking and savings: | \$73,094.95 |

Savings account breakdown is as follows:

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| Organ fund: | \$23,500.00 |
| Building fund: | \$26,540.00 |
| Large pledge escrow: | \$ 0.00 |
| Undesignated fund: | \$17,551.13 |

I feel optimistic that February will be a better month as the temperatures get warmer. Also, we are making some necessary changes with the church's telephone and communications lines that will result in regular savings. We remain in an acceptable position.

David Thomas, Treasurer

Stewardship Update

Grace is blessed with a generous congregation, thank you to everyone for your contributions. To date, 33 families have pledged for 2021 and the total amount of the pledges is \$84,560. In 2020, 35 families pledged for a total amount of \$94,360.

We are still accepting pledges for 2021. If you would like to receive a pledge card, please reach out to a member of the stewardship committee. Thanks so much to everyone that has assisted in the Stewardship drive: John Harvey, Dave Thomas, Ed Strong and Cheryl Cline.

In 2019 Susan Browning shared the following Stewardship prayer with us:

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we thank you for all the gifts that you give us out of your boundless love and generosity to us. We ask you to bless our common commitment as members of Grace Episcopal Church to give back to you a portion of our time, energy, abilities, and money.

Help us to remember that everything we have comes from you, and that we are at best stewards of all that we have. We thank you for the joy we

experience in giving of ourselves back to you for the work and mission of Christ among us.

Help us to spread to others the gospel of love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In his name we now pray. Amen.

Carol Martinez,
Chairman, Stewardship Committee

2021 Episcopal Church Year Calendar Available

The Episcopal Church Year Guide, a printed calendar is available in Faith Hall for members of Grace Episcopal Church. The calendar includes Principal Feasts, Holy Days, Days of Special Devotion and Days of Observance along with Eucharistic Lectionaries and Liturgical Notes.

The Book of Common Prayer guides the usage for each entry in the calendar that was compiled and edited by The Right Rev. Barry E. Yingling. If you would like to receive a copy of the calendar but do not visit the church building, please reach out to Carol Martinez.

Mission Council

Grace Episcopal Church Mission Council met February 18, 2021 at 6:30 via Zoom. The Mission Council officers and members are working to update the present bylaws of 2011. The purpose of these amendments is enabling to the Mission Council to establish a quorum and approve motions in an online video conferencing meeting, to dispense with the requirement to hold a second annual meeting in June, and to allow members of the Mission Council to serve as senior or junior warden for up to three years in a row, one year at a time.

New members of the Mission Council are Laurie McNutt, who will serve as liaison for Congregational Life, and Will Pomeroy, who is our Communications liaison. David Thomas is now the Treasurer with Ed Strong as assistant treasurer. Susan Austin, Jr. Warden, reported physical improvements that have been made to church property with her oversight. Lighting issues inside and outside Grace Church, which relate to both aesthetics and safety, are being addressed.

As Clerk of the Mission Council, I keep the official record of the meetings of the Mission Council. I am most grateful for all members who have kept me on top of things. ---Peggy Roberts, Clerk

Special Note from Father Joe

Friday afternoon, I learned that Dad's wife Joan has Covid 19. Saturday afternoon, I took him to be tested at a walk-in clinic. I tested negative, but he was positive. Two of Dad and Joan's caregivers are also positive, and the one that is not is staying away to be safe. I am in a 10 day quarantine with Dad at his house.

I got an appointment for Tuesday, March 9 to get Dad what's called a "bam infusion" of antibodies that should help him recover well and quickly. As I write this, that means we go tomorrow to the TriStar Medical Center in 100 Oaks for an intravenous treatment that takes about two and a half hours. So far, I have woken up each day feeling good. I am learning a lot about care giving for a loved one, and I am learning how impatient I am. I find myself extremely grateful for the people who help other people: the people who check your dad's car battery when it won't start because it hasn't been driven, the people who take your phone call when you are trying to make an appointment, the people who take care of the old and the handicapped. Their kindness is thinly veiled divine grace.

I have gotten several emails, texts, calls, and messages from people at Grace. Your prayers and words of encouragement make me feel a lot better. Thanks for your kindness and for your ears that listen and your eyes that read. This situation can be very isolating, as I now see for myself. You strengthen the bond we share in Christ which means we are never alone. I am most grateful.

Be good to Fr. Herrmann next Sunday. ---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

John Harvey, Senior Warden
Susan Austin, Junior Warden
David Thomas, Treasurer
Ed Strong, Assistant Treasurer
Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life
Will Pomeroy, Communications
Diann Schneider, Christian Education

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

