

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, John Harvey, 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.

April 26	St. Mark, Evangelist
May 1	Sts Philip & James, Apostles
May 13	Ascension Day
May 16	Grace's Consecration Anniversary (1878)
May 23	Pentecost/Whitsunday
May 30	Trinity Sunday
May 31	Blessed Mary Visitation

## Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	To attend in-person, email Susan Austin, <a href="mailto:sjanawicz@aol.com">sjanawicz@aol.com</a> to reserve physical distanced seating
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Sun.	11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour via Zoom
Tues.	10 a.m.	Bible Study via Zoom
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting

## Vicar's Vagaries

### Two Funerals in the New Creation

On April 4, we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Day. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the funeral of Barbara Douglas, a caregiver who had been caring for my father and his wife for

almost six years. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated a memorial service for John and Marie Aliano, beloved members of our congregation who died in early November and early February last winter. Due to the restrictions of the Covid era, we were not able to have separate services when they died. Their daughter Christine Trigona asked to have this one service in Easter Season on that date because it was right in the middle of their birthdays. John was born on April 15, 1940, and Marie was born on April 20, 1943.

We will miss John and Marie very much. They were always in church sitting in their pew up front on the right from my perspective. The service was for family and a few close friends, but a small team of helpers from Grace aided me in leading the service and caring for the people. Also, we were able to offer a video broadcast of the service for any member of the Alianos' biological or church family to see from home. The attitude of those who helped with the service could be summed up by the simple words, "I like to help people when I can."

Helping people. When a chance comes along, is that something we want to do? Barbara devoted her life to helping people. In my own way, I like to help people, too. I like to help them learn how to read the Bible, how to pray, how to think, how to use their computer to better advantage, how to listen to good music on their phones, how to stretch before physical activity. Helping people just make it through one more day has not been my focus since my children were young. But there's a meeting with Christ to be had here.

The older we get, as we are no longer able to walk unaided, as we lose the ability to remember what happened 2 minutes ago, in a way it seems as though we are becoming less than we were. But Jesus said, "As you do it to the least of these, you do it to me." Help a person make it through another day, and you are connecting with Jesus himself. Taste the sweetness of that connection.

I am grateful for all Barbara taught me and my family about how to care for someone with patience,

love, and steadfastness. And I am glad I did one thing for her when I had the chance. One of the last times I saw her before everyone got Covid 19, I was giving Dad a haircut. Barbara admitted her knee was bothering her, so she said she was going to put her feet up and rest a few minutes. When I came through the kitchen and saw her feet on the ground, I got a chair, put it in front of where she was sitting, and made her put her sore leg up on the chair. I went and got an ice pack out of the freezer and put it on her knee. She said, "Don't you do that for me!" I said, "You help Dad and Joan all the time. I am honored to be able to do anything at all for you." I am glad I did that tiny act of kindness when I had the chance. Maybe it will qualify as my cup of cold water given to one of our Lord's little ones.

Father Joe

### **Outreach Under the Radar**

We at Grace have been involved in outreach in our community in many ways over the years. Habitat for Humanity, Center of Hope, The Well, and Room in the Inn are some of the names you will probably recognize. Our role has included working to provide housing, providing support for abused families, supporting our local food pantry, providing a safety net for students in need at the local schools, and feeding the homeless. These are all worthy causes and well deserving of any help they receive. There is another organization we have a connection to that you may not be aware of, but I feel is deserving of mention.

Grace is host to a local group of AA, or Alcoholics Anonymous. As described on their website, AA is "an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost anywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem." The organization was founded in Akron, Ohio, in 1935, and has helped countless people deal with their drinking problems in the process saving marriages, jobs, and lives. I count among them friends, as well as former co-workers and employees.

The group that we host meets on Tuesday and Friday evenings. They ask very little of Grace other than a secure place to hold their meetings and the

respect of their anonymity. For this they pay a monthly fee for rental of the facilities and we enjoy a most cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship. As we have navigated through the pandemic, this relationship has made me aware of how much extra stress has been placed upon the members of the group. We should keep them in our prayers.

If you know of anyone who might need to know about AA, or would like to know more yourself, information is available on the website at [aa.org](http://aa.org).

Christ's Peace,  
John Harvey, Sr. Warden

### **Let There Be More Light**

As we transition from winter to spring, nature brings new colors and longer hours of daylight. The Grace Church building and grounds are also going through their own transitions, sporting some new colors and light. As some of you may recall from the annual meeting, the flooring in Faith Hall, kitchen, and surrounding rooms and hallways was replaced thanks to a generous donor. Since then, the pantry and office have been painted and reorganized. In the coming weeks, painting will be completed in Faith Hall, hallways, restrooms, and the kitchen. The kitchen cabinets will also be getting a facelift.

One item that has been on our to-do list for a while was addressing the lighting issues both indoors and out. Lighting is both an issue of security and aesthetics. Our lights illuminating the seasonal banners and the front of the church had stopped working. Some of the lights had operated on a timer that had also stopped working. The lighting inside the nave and illuminating the sanctuary was not ideal. In some areas the lighting was harsh and uninviting. In other areas, the lighting was not bright enough for many of us "lighting dependent" individuals to be able to easily read the lessons on cloudy days or during evening services. In March, our friendly local electrician fixed all our issues. If you can drive by some evening, you will see the front of the church brightly lit from the outside. Also take note that the round stained-glass window is lit from the inside. Inside we were able to strike the right balance of light bright enough to read but also provide a welcoming warmth.

As you also may recall, a lot of work was done in our gardens last fall. The new plantings appear to

have survived our recent harsh winter storm. And the weeds always seem to survive. I have started the first round of weeding the gardens. Be watching the announcements in the Sunday bulletin and on our Facebook page about a spring yard cleanup and planting day. Just like last fall, I know I will be able to depend on the many volunteers who help to keep our grounds looking so nice.

Peace,  
Susan Austin, Jr. Warden

### **Treasurer’s Report for April**

February was a good month for Grace with a positive balance. January was less balanced with expenses exceeding revenues. Fortunately, February’s revenues were up, and the difference made up for the shortfall from January. We had been in the black for December also, partly due to the Christmas offering of \$1,075.

Twenty-twenty was a challenging year for the Church. We were fortunate to have reserves from which we could draw. Gladly, we appear to be trending upward toward a more even balance between revenue and expenses.

In summary, Grace church’s balance is positive and appears to be trending upward in 2021. Finances for February are as follows:

Total February revenues:	\$10,699.65
Total February expenses:	\$8,946.06
First Horizon checking balance:	\$4,257.41
First Horizon savings balance:	\$67,593.72

Dave Thomas, Treasurer

### **“Welcome, Happy Morning!”**

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, translated by John Ellerton

Music: Arthur S. Sullivan

One of my favorite things is learning new hymns—not only the music, but the stories of the author and composer. The first Easter I was here at Grace I was introduced to “Welcome, Happy Morning,” by one of the choir members, and it has been a favorite ever since.

The text was originally written in Latin in the 6th century by Venantius Honorius Fortunatus. He was born and educated in Italy but spent most of his life

in Gaul (France) where he was eventually ordained and was a Bishop. He was a poet, and many of his writings are still known today, including this hymn.

It was translated by John Ellerton, an Anglican priest who served as a Curate, Vicar, Chaplain, and Rector. Also known as a hymnologist, he wrote many of his own hymns, as well as translating older Latin texts.

The tune was composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame. He wrote many hymn tunes, including St. Gertude, the tune we sing with “Onward, Christian Soldiers.”

The beautiful text tells us that nature is celebrating the Resurrection with its own display—increasing light, blooming meadows, and the joy of spring. The closing stanza declares, “Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan’s chain; all that now is fallen raise to life again.” After the penitential time of Lent and the solemnity of Holy Week, this hymn leads us in rejoicing for all that Jesus has accomplished for us.

“Welcome, happy morning!” was my first thought on Easter Sunday!

Deanie Moore

### **Grace Works with Area Schools to Help Local Residents**

Nolensville High School received two \$50 Kroger Gift Cards as part of Grace Episcopal Church’s participation in a program from the Episcopal Diocese to assist at-risk households in Middle Tennessee pay for food and housing. Stephanie McKnight, a member of Grace, is a counselor at the school.

Additionally, Sarah Curtis, a Williamson School Social Worker who works at Chapman’s Retreat Elementary School, acknowledged the school’s receipt of \$250 in Kroger Gift Cards. “We are grateful for your generosity. I know the families who will receive these gifts cards will be extremely thankful. Thank you for your commitment to our Spring and Chapman’s Retreat community,” she wrote in a letter. A complete copy of the letter is on display in Faith Hall. Spring Hill Elementary School, located in Maury County, also received \$250 in Kroger Gift cards as part of this program.

Carol Martinez applied for the Grant and chaired the distribution committee that included Richard Hawarah, Dave Thomas, and Father Joe. Grace was

awarded a \$500 grant for local distribution from the Diocese. An additional \$100 came from generous donations from two members of the congregation.

The Diocese of Tennessee was awarded an emergency grant of \$15,000 by Episcopal Relief and Development to help at-risk households in Middle Tennessee pay for food and housing.

Carol Martinez

### **Mission Council Meeting**

The Grace Mission Council held their monthly meeting March 24 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Fr. Joe reported attending the monthly Zoom meeting with the Bishop and the clergy of the area. The bishop said at this meeting there have not been any documented cases of COVID-19 proven to have been caused by the common cup. Fr. Joe said churches are responding in different ways to the changes brought about by widespread vaccination and reductions in cases of Covid 19. He is studying and praying about the situation and looking for ways Grace Church can open up more as the pandemic subsides, but he does not want us to do too much too soon.

Fr. Joe took vacation the week after Easter (April 5-12) after taking a two week COVID leave period last month while quarantined and caring for his sick father. Fr. Sandy Herrmann celebrated Sunday mass with us, April 11 at 10:00 a.m.

A second unanimous vote on the approved bylaw changes adopted at the March 18 meeting was required. The amended bylaw vote was again unanimously approved and adopted.

### **2021 Episcopal Church Calendar Now 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.

### **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>,

