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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 8
August 2021

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.

Aug. 16	St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Aug.20-22	Episcopal Churchmen of TN, 75 th Conference
Aug. 24	St. Bartholomew the Apostle
Aug. 29	The Well, blessing of donations
Sept. 14	Holy Cross Day
Sept. 18	Episcopal Church Fall Assembly, ECW & Daughters of the King
Oct. 3	Blessing of the Animals, St. Francis of Assisi, 1:00 p.m.

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Mon.	1:00 p.m.	Creative Mondays, Faith Hall, 2 nd & 4 th weeks
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Father Joe, Office hours
Wed.'s	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist
Sept. 2	12:00 Noon	Ladies Luncheon, TBA

Vicar's Vagaries

“No one can have God for his Father, who does not have the Church for his mother.” (St. Cyprian, *The Unity of the Church*, ca. 250 CE) St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, favored a merciful attitude towards Christians who had renounced the Christian Faith to save their lives or the lives of their loved ones in times of persecution. Some Christians believed no one could ever be brought back into the Church after committing such apostasy, but Cyprian believed and taught that God in his mercy welcomes people back into the fold if they confess their sins and repent.

St. Cyprian says we need to have the Church as our mother, for through the Church, we are born into a new life in which we become brothers and sisters of Christ and children of our heavenly Father. However, life in any congregation of Christians makes us members of a large extended family containing many mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters, and children. At Grace Church, Flo Kline, our sister in Christ and a child of God like all of us, has also been a kind of mother to everyone in our congregation for many years—so much so, that she is called “Mama Flo” by all. This Sunday, August 22, we celebrate her birthday, and we bid her farewell, as she plans to move Rockford, Illinois, at the first of next week. I only learned this news about two weeks ago, when I got out of the hospital. Though I was stunned, I have tried to find the good in this news I did not want to hear.

Within the Body of Christ, we are joined with the Communion of Saints, and we are one in Christ forever. Not even death can permanently divide us from each other because the love of Christ binds us together in a life that does not end. While Mama Flo

will move from this local branch of the body of Christ, she will always be part of us, as we are part of one another. She will be close to several generations of her own biological family, and she will become an important part of another local Church family in Rockford, Illinois; but she will always be our Mama Flo.

I would have told her it is too cold and windy for her up north near Chicago, but she never asked! That is *so* Mama Flo!

So now, on behalf of us all, I say to Mama Flo, “*Au revoir!*” “Until we meet again!” And please allow me to throw in a “Ciao!” an “Aloha!” and a “Shalom!” May God bless and keep Flo and all members of her biological and Church families, and may our heavenly Father enable us to put into practice the many ways Mama Flo showed us how to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Father Joe

Farewell from Mama Flo

How does one say goodbye to those they love so much? For 14 years of my life, you have been my only family.

I want to thank you for all the love you have shared with me. You will always be with me in my thoughts and prayers. May the Lord watch over all of you and keep you safe from harm. Remember me always as your Mama Flo.

Flo Kline

Story of a Meaningful Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

Text: Unknown, but attributed to K., in Rippon’s
“A Selection of Hymns”

Melody: FOUNDATION, a tune found in the
Sacred Harp

Those of you who have known me for even a short amount of time have heard me say, “That’s my favorite hymn” many times. There are very few that aren’t favorites! What makes them my favorites isn’t simply that I like the tune and text, but that they remind me of special people and events.

*“How firm a foundation,
ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say
than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?”*

*“Fear not, I am with thee;
O be not dismayed!
For I am Thy God,
and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee,
and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”*

*“When through the deep waters
I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”*

*“When through fiery trials
thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume,
and thy gold to refine.”*

*“The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell
should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”*

The text is full of scripture references. Deuteronomy 31:6 tells us that “He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” The second stanza is taken almost directly from Isaiah 41:10: “Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” The third stanza is from Isaiah 43:2: “When Thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

I had grown up singing this, but it became personally meaningful to me in the late 1980s when our church in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia was burned by an arsonist. The fire was not discovered until it was too late to save the building, and we watched in disbelief as the sanctuary collapsed in showers of sparks and smoke. That evening we gathered around the smoldering foundation and sang this hymn through our tears and grief.

The process of rebuilding took over a year, and we all learned important lessons in what the church truly was—not a building, but the people who worked together to bring the love of Jesus to our community.

I encourage you to connect the hymns we sing on Sunday to events and people in your life.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Deanie Moore

Episcopal Church Women & Daughters of the King Meeting

An exciting “first” is about to occur in our diocese. The Episcopal Church Women and the Daughters of the King will, for the first time, have a joint annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021. at St. George’s Church, 4715 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN, 37205.

- 9:00 a.m. Registration, refreshments in Hampton Hall.
- 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, celebrated with Bishop in the Nave.
- 10:45 Speaker: Bishop Bauerschmidt,
- 11:15 a.m. Business meetings
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Hampton Hall.
- A tour of St. George’s will be available after lunch.

This meeting is open to all women of Grace Church and to all members of Grace Church Daughters of the King. The registration deadline is September 8, 2021. Forms will be available in Faith Hall, or you may call Diann Schneider at 931.486.0377.

The Order of the Daughters of the King

Our Grace Chapter is an active group of women who have taken vows to pray, serve and evangelize. This is a commitment we hold dear. We are in transition right now as we have said goodbye to Toni Strong, and now we say the same to Mama Flo Kline, who will be moving to Illinois soon. We thank each of them for sharing their gifts with us over the years. We will continue to pray for them, and know they’ll be praying for our Grace Church congregation as well.

Our current members are Cheryl Cline, Laurie McNutt, Lynn Rieger, Carolyn Warnick, and I. Be assured of our ongoing commitment to our church family. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King, please call us. Also, contact us for prayer or other requests. It is our joy to serve.

For His Sake,

Sheila Flynn

ECW Empowers Women

Have you ever wondered what some of the initials are in the Episcopal Church? There is DOK (Daughters of the King), UTO (United Thank Offering) and ECW (Episcopal Church Women).

The Episcopal Church Women is a group of women from all around the nation, focused on empowering women to do Christ’s work in the world.

Women become members of the ECW in two ways, at the time they are confirmed or when they transfer their membership from one church to another. So, you are a member of the ECW whether you want to be or not. The ECW started food pantries and volunteer programs.

This is an excerpt about what Bishop Vander Horst said about the E.C.W. The bishop was introduced to the women who served the Church in Tennessee shortly after arriving at St. Paul’s Chattanooga in 1951. “They were a stern-winding group full of vigor and imagination and most supportive.” However, the women at St. Paul’s were not unique in the Diocese. From the Diocesan U.T.O. to mission bazaars, they were the ones who put the show on the road and went for the glory of

God. What is UTO? It is exactly what it says. UTO has little blue boxes, and when something happens that you are thankful for, you put money in the blue box. Once a year the money is collected and sent to the National Office, and the UTO gives the money it receives to different ministries throughout the Episcopal Church.

To quote Bishop Vander Horst “Surely there isn’t another Diocese that is as blessed as Tennessee in what the Lord hath wrought through the Churchwomen in Tennessee.”

On a personal level, Bishop Vander Horst (Suffragan, Coadjutor, and Diocesan Bishop of Tennessee from 1955-1977) was asked to speak to the Women at the Church of the Advent. At the time, I was Vice President of the Women, and I took the day off from work to hear him. We started the meeting with a Church service. I was sitting with my mother, and the Bishop sat with us. During lunch the Bishop asked me why I didn’t speak to him. I really didn’t know what to say, so I said that my Mother taught me not to speak in Church. That turned out to be the correct answer.

If you have any questions, want additional information, and would like a UTO box, please contact me.

Diann Schneider

Let’s Help The Well

The mission statement of The Well says it all: “The Well Outreach exists to be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving those in need through supporting spiritual, emotional, and physical growth.”

The Well is a food pantry located across Main Street just south of our church. Clients may visit The Well for food twice monthly. The Director of Operations, Joseph Knapp, explained that hunger may be a pathway to other needs a person may have. He stressed the importance of showing compassion and respecting the dignity of every person. While The Well does not assist with rent, utilities, or medication costs, it does refer to other resources for those needs.

The Well needs volunteers. There is an open orientation every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. where volunteer opportunities are present. Grace Church

members support The Well with monetary donations and food items. There is a container in Faith Hall where you may leave your canned and dry food donations Wednesdays between 11:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Laurie McNutt, Parrish Life

The “Coolest” Church in Town

One of the perks of being your Jr. Warden is the opportunity to visit areas of the church the average parishioner doesn’t see often, if at all. One of my “favorite” places is the crawl space. I make it a point to check it out at least once a month to sweep out the cobwebs, make sure we don’t have critters taking up residence and of course, taking the temperature of our HVAC system that services the sanctuary.

As you may recall, we were forced to replace the entire unit that services Faith Hall in April of 2020 when it reached the end of its lifespan. The one that services the sanctuary is only a year younger than the one that failed, and we have been nursing it along for the past year. On a recent visit to the crawl space, I noticed considerable dripping from the A/C portion of the unit. I was hoping it was just the pump that sends excess condensation from the unit out of the building. Unfortunately, that was not the case. It turns out that the coil had developed one or more leaks and it was rapidly losing Freon. The dripping I had noticed was the unit freezing up and perhaps getting ready to stop working entirely within days. Fortunately, our HVAC company was very prompt in diagnosing the problems and providing us with options.

Because of the system’s age (14-15 years), it used the old-style Freon which now costs \$150/pound and ours is a 10-pound unit. We could try nursing it along, replacing the coil and Freon. The Freon itself would be \$1,500 plus the cost of the other parts and labor. The bigger issue is that the fix would only be temporary as they couldn’t guarantee that other leaks wouldn’t develop, and the repair costs would just continue to add up. The furnace portion of the unit was deemed to be in decent shape and the Mission Council wisely voted to

replace the A/C portion with a new Trane unit. The expense of \$5,800 was not one we were planning on this year, but the advantage is that the repair comes with 10-year warranties on the parts and labor, is fully compatible with the existing furnace, uses the new less expensive Freon, and is more efficient. The Techs also gave me a lesson on cleaning the outside units between the biannual preventive maintenance visits by our HVAC company. Now it's a pleasure to visit the crawl space (I can arrange a private tour if you're interested)!

As Fr. Joe announced on his first Sunday back after his vacation, with these repairs, Grace is indeed the "coolest" church in town!

Peace,
Susan Austin, Jr. Warden

Stewardship Update

With God's Grace, the budget at Grace Episcopal Church is on track. This can be attributed to several factors, including the fact that several members paid their entire pledge amount at the beginning of the year and that increased attendance at church has shown growth in the plate offerings.

All are thankful for everyone who supports the wonderful ministries of our church by donations. Presently, 31 families pledge to Grace. (One person households, like me are counted as a family.)

Traditionally, Grace's pledge drive takes place in the Fall, but we don't know when God is going to move you to give. If you would like to become a pledging member, any time is a suitable time to sign up; please reach out to me.

By Carol Martinez

Treasury Report for July 2021

July was not one of our better months. Normal expenses were high, and \$5,830 went for replacement of the cooling unit for the sanctuary. This amount was transferred out of the building fund to cover the cost. We still had a negative balance for the month, but we seem to do that every other month. We hope August will be another positive month.

Finances for July are as follows:

Pledged income:	\$5,762.00
Plate income:	\$234.00
Total gifts & offerings:	<u>\$5,996.00</u>
Building refurbishment fund:	\$120.00
Facilities rental:	\$100.00
Total July revenues:	<u>\$6,216.00</u>
Total July expenses:	<u>\$15,739.09</u>
Net Total:	<u>-\$9,523.09</u>

First Horizon checking balance:	\$9,106.05
First Horizon savings balance:	\$63,757.99
Total of accounts:	<u>\$72,864.04</u>

Breakdown of Savings:	
Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated:	\$19,605.09
Interest earned:	\$2.90
Total assets as July 31, 2021:	<u>\$72,864.04</u>

Dave Thomas, Treasurer

Mission Council Meeting

The Grace Mission Council met July 21 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Father Joe reminded everyone August 31 the Grace Financial Audit must be submitted. He shared with us his insights from his illness and two days stay in the hospital in late June. Father Joe thanked all members for their prayers and assistance during his illness and subsequent vacation. All council members were reminded to complete their "Safeguarding Our Children" training. John Harvey, Sr. Warden, discussed the church audit which will be conducted by David Thomas, treasurer, and two members of the congregation. Susan Austin, Jr. Warden, discussed the repair of the AC in the sanctuary for \$5,858 as described in her earlier article in this issue.

- *Communications:* Will Pomeroy addressed the new Grace Facebook page removal and will communicate in writing with Facebook about our needs and concerns.
- *Congregational Life:* Laurie McNutt said Grace donated 40 pounds of food to The Well in July. Volunteer workers are

needed at the boutique for the Center of Hope, Columbia, TN, and Laurie is excited about a new volunteer opportunity. She also shared information about the Women's Luncheon, July 8, at the Olive Garden.

- *Community Outreach:* Les Bennett inquired about the duties and responsibilities of his position.

The Mission Council adjourned at 7:58 and will meet again Wednesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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
Les Bennett, Community Outreach
Will Pomeroy, Communications
Diann Schneider, Christian Education

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

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

