

Grace Episcopal Church
5291 N. Main St.
Spring Hill, TN 37174
931-486-3223
Office@grace4sh.org

Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 10
October 2021

Grace Notes is the monthly newsletter for Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill. 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.*

Services and Continuing Events

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--|
| Sun. | 10 a.m. | Holy Eucharist |
| Sun. | 10 a.m. | Facebook Live Service |
| Mon. | (Paused) | Creative Mondays, Faith Hall, 2nd & 4th weeks |
| Tues. & Fri. | 7 p.m. | AA Meeting |
| Wed. | 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Father Joe, Office hours |
| Wed. | 12:00 Noon | Holy Eucharist |

Notes Articles

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Vicar's Vagaries | Pg. 1-2 |
| All Saints' Day | Pg. 2 |
| Amazing Grace | Pg. 2 |
| Life After 50 | Pg. 2 |
| Treasurer's Report | Pg. 2-3 |
| Mission Council Mtg. | Pg. 3 |

Events and Dates of Notes

Here are dates to note on the church calendar. Information about 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. 23 | Cancelled – Spring Hill Art Walk |
| | Diocesan Day of Prayer, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. |
| Oct. 31 | Stewardship Committee meeting following worship |
| Nov. 1 | All Saints' Day |

| | | |
|---------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Nov. 3 | 12:00 | Weekday Eucharist |
| Nov. 2 | | All Souls/All the Faithful Departed |
| Nov. 7 | | All Saints' Sunday |
| Nov. 25 | | Thanksgiving Day |
| Nov. 28 | | First Sunday of Advent |

The Vicar's Vagaries: All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day always falls on November 1. From All Hallows' Eve, we got Halloween, October 31, the day before All Saints' Day. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate all the holy saints of God, known and unknown. Because well-known saints are on our church calendar, and they have feast days of their own, All Saints Day is especially for those who otherwise would go uncelebrated, those anonymous, silent, humble, holy people of God living in our midst who are the very salt of the earth. So that we may celebrate All Saints' Day with the greatest number of people, we celebrate it on the Sunday following All Saints' Day, which this year falls on November 7.

To be holy means to belong to God. How may we belong to God? Aren't we already his? Well, yes, we are; but nevertheless, growth in holiness for most of us consists in surrendering ourselves more and more over the years to the God who made us; and we can only surrender as we are enabled to by the power of the Holy Spirit operating in us by God's grace given by Jesus Christ.

Though death separates us from those who no longer live in this world, in Christ we are united forever. All Saints' Day celebrates the triumph of Christ as he claims all who belong to him, living and dead, throughout the world and forever.

Prayers for Recently Departed Loved Ones

If you have loved ones or friends who have died in the past year that you would like us to remember

in prayer on Sunday, November 7th at our 10:00 a.m. service, please give their names to me or John Harvey, and we will put them on our prayer list for All Saints' Sunday, November 7.

The Communion of Saints

As we approach All Saints' Day, I always think of that part of the Apostles' Creed at the end (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 96) where we state our belief in "...the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, *the communion of saints*, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of the dead (my italics)." Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, who was given to the followers of Christ after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the "holy catholic Church" came to life. All of those who follow Christ and are baptized into his death and resurrection are made into one body and are preserved in a unity with one another and with God by the operation of the Holy Spirit. As living members of Christ, the Church has been made into a "communion of saints," a unity throughout all time and space of those who belong to Christ. We are given by God's grace "the forgiveness of sins," and we live in hope of "the resurrection of the body," which Jesus himself first experienced on Easter.

Father Joe

Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Melody: "New Britain" from *The Virginia Harmony*, 1831

Ask anyone you know about favorite hymns, and "Amazing Grace" will be high on their list. Many of us recall the 1970s when the iconic version became a worldwide hit recorded by Judy Collins.

This text was written by John Newton, who had a very colorful past, and knew in the deepest places of his heart of the amazing grace of his Savior. He was born in London in 1725, and his mother was a devoted Christian—she prayed for him and taught him the scriptures. Sadly, she died when John was seven, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. His life seemed to sink lower with each passing year, full of "depravity and licentiousness,"

floggings for disobedience, and about 15 months working for a slave trader in Africa. John eventually became the captain of a slave ship, but God was at work in his life throughout those dark years. He eventually gave up his life at sea in 1754. His wife, Mary Catlett, whom he married in 1750, was a devout believer, and encouraged him as he grew in the faith.

John spent a number of years under the teaching of John and Charles Wesley and George Whitfield, and eventually he began to study for the ministry. He was ordained by the Church of England in 1764. Throughout his ministry John wrote hymns that spoke to specific events, as well as topics of his sermons.

He wrote hundreds of hymns, many of which are still in use. Our hymnal has five of his hymns, some we sing often. "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken," (522), and "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds in a Believer's Ear," (644).

My favorite quote is from the last years of his ministry. His health was failing, and his memory was becoming poor, to the point of his forgetting where he was in his sermon. When confronted with this, he replied: "Although my memory is fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Savior."

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Deanie Moore

Life After 50

Have you driven by the Church lately on a Thursday morning and observed four or five cars in the parking lot? Father Joe and the Mission Council have graciously given permission to the group "Life After 50," commonly called "the crochet group" to meet in Faith Hall. The group originally met at the Community Center in Thompsons' Station until the city council ask them if they could move their meeting.

The group starts around 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. We sit around one of the tables and talk while we work. This is also a support group if you are having a problem with what you are

working on. If you are new to either crocheting or knitting, there is someone around to help you.

The group also has projects they work on. One year at Christmas, we gave the boys at the “boys’ home” new winter hats, we supplied a nursing home with lap robes for the residents, and hospital baby bonnets for the premature babies. All the yarn, other materials, and loving artistry are donated by members of the group.

It doesn’t matter where you live or whether you are able to crochet, knit, or do embroidery, everyone is welcome. There is always someone who can teach you. The main topic of the morning is “Where are we going for lunch?”

If you have any questions, please call Diann Schneider at 931.486.0377. All are welcome to join us and have an enjoyable time!

Diann Schneider

Grace Finances for September 2021

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total September revenues: | \$3,882.00 |
| Total September expenses: | \$8,404.15 |
| First Horizon checking balance: | \$2,875.25 |
| First Horizon savings balance: | \$56,262.97 |
| Savings Breakdown: | |
| Organ fund: | \$23,500.00 |
| Building fund: | \$20,650.00 |
| Undesignated: | \$12,110.59 |
| Interest earned: | <u>\$2.38</u> |
| Total assets: | <u>\$59,138.22</u> |

Dave Thomas, Treasurer

Mission Council Meeting

The Grace Church Mission Council met September 15, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Treasurer, David Thomas, reported this is the fourth month that expenses have exceeded revenue. Expenses have remained as budgeted but giving has been less this year than in 2021. The council felt that COVID safety concerns in addition to virtual worship have affected regular giving.

Father Joe mentioned that he has recommended to stewardship chair Carol Martinez that we have a

stewardship committee meeting after church on October 31. The Diocesan Day of Prayer is Saturday, October 23. John Harvey will open the church for individual prayer from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Father Joe sent the completed 2020 Parochial Report to the diocesan office last week. Fr. Joe expressed his opinion that our congregation will benefit from being able to gather in groups again. We are still exercising caution due to the high number of Covid 19 cases in our area lately.

John Harvey, Sr. Warden, led a discussion about the need to nominate persons for the mission council for next year. He and Les Bennett will complete their terms at the annual meeting in January. We also discussed who would be senior warden.

Susan Austin, Jr. Warden, completed the retyping of the Bylaws with the recent changes, but also advised there are many errors in the original copy that will require correction in the future. Bill Rieger was major help installing the new garbage disposal. The fire extinguishers are certified. The arborist will come Thursday to do some much-needed tree work.

- *Communications:* Will Pomeroy said the Maury County Historical Society visit to Grace Church went well with thirty-five interested people in attendance.
- *Christian Education and children’s ministries:* Diann Schneider said Lynn Rieger is delivering packets with personal letters to the children of Grace Church.
- *Congregational Life:* Laurie McNutt plans to resume the Ladies’ Luncheon sometime after the first of 2022. Carolyn Warnick has agreed to take on the card writing ministry. Cheryl Cline deserves many thanks, as she has been in charge of this way of serving for the last 10 years.
- *Community Outreach:* Les Bennett and Susan Austin delivered eighty-four pounds of food to The Well. Les is working with

the Center of Hope concerning families we might help at Christmas time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m.
Peggy Roberts & Father 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
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>.

