

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 5
May 2022

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 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.*

June 11 St. Barnabas the Apostle, Ember Day
June 12 1st Sunday after Pentecost: Holy Trinity
June 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 26 Blessing of **The Well food donations**
June 29 Apostles St. Peter & St. Paul

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Mon. (2&4)	1:00 p.m.	Creative Mondays
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	(*Will be in Thurs.)	Father Joe, <i>Office Hours</i>
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Crochet Group
Thurs.	12:00 p.m.	Ascension Day Eucharist

Newsletter Articles

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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.

May 26	Ascension Day
May 29	Blessing of The Well food donations
May 31	Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary
June 5	Day of Pentecost, Whitsunday

Vicar's Vagaries

Of Water and the Font

When I first came to Grace Church, the baptismal font looked as though it had not been used for some time. It was dusty, and it did not have a bowl of water in it as it does now. I found some stone cleaner under the kitchen in the sink (!) and cleaned out the font with a rag. I put it in the middle of the aisle in such a way that no one can easily get into or out of the church through the main entrance without negotiating his or her way around the font. Linda Colmore brought a nice crystal bowl for us to put water in all the time.

If you stand in the center of the chancel and look to the back of the church, you can see the font and the stained glass window of a stream and a palm tree. Except during Lent and Easter, you can see the paschal candle immediately behind the font. (During Lent, I have removed the holy water from the font to help us all remember the fact that Lent is a time of fasting, a time of joining Jesus in the wilderness that we might learn again how dependent on God we are for all things needed for life, including water.) Look up higher, and you can see the circular window of the Holy Spirit descending as a white dove in a circle of red. All of these signs remind us of our baptism into the body of Christ and our new life in Christ through this great sacrament. The font is our entryway into the Church, and the Holy Spirit acts in our baptism to make us adopted members of God's own family.

The word “font” comes from the same word as “fountain,” a source of water that springs up from below. The font is a symbol of the living water that Christ promised the Samaritan woman at the well. She asked him, “How is that you, being a Jew, ask water of me, a Samaritan?” Jesus said, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” (John 4:9-10) Jesus later said, “The water that I will give (a person) will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (4:14) The living water Jesus speaks of is the new life we have in Christ because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. When Christ gives us living water, life never stops springing up from within ourselves. It gives us life that never ends. It gives us a constant connection with the God who created us and redeemed us. This is something very encouraging to think upon when the news contains too much violence and death and when we are worried about things that are not in our control. The God who created us loves us forever and gives life that never ends.

Why have we been given a major sacrament that depends so much on water? Water was present at the beginning of creation. God sent the Israelites through the parted waters of the Red Sea during the Exodus and caused the returning waters to “discomfit” the army of Pharaoh. (What a great word! *Discomfit* means to overthrow and bring confusion upon.) Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the water of the Jordan River. And Jesus sent his disciples out to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The water of our baptism reminds us that God loves us and intervenes in our world to cleanse us, to save us from sin, and give us new life in Christ with him.

Every time we come into or leave the church, we can dip our finger into the font and sign the cross on ourselves and give thanks for the new life we receive through the water of our baptism.

Father Joe

Ascension Day, Thursday May 26

Since Ascension Day is this Thursday, I will be coming into the office on Thursday of this week, and we will celebrate the Eucharist on Thursday at

noon. Ascension Day is one of the great feasts of the church year, as it is the day when we celebrate Christ's ascension from the earth to be with God forever, taking our resurrected and glorified humanity with him. This is a feast about Jesus in his glory, but it also tells us something essential about our future: Christ will bring us to himself to dwell with him and the Father forever.

Father Joe

Welcoming Back the Children

Each Sunday, we are getting closer to normal, the way it was before any of us heard the word COVID-19. More of our church family members are feeling comfortable with in-person worship. We are singing again, and we can see the smiles on people's faces without masks.

But there has been one big hole that soon will be filled – the children! We are ready to restart Children's Church around the beginning of June. Alleluia!

On April 24, Fr. Joe delivered a powerful sermon about how we do not become Christians in isolation in our homes. We become Christians through Christians reaching out to us, imparting to us what they believe, inviting us to come along. Our children become Christians and stronger in faith with our help. The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta said it very well, “The best gift to little ones is to share what we know of God's love, trust, worthiness, and genius.”

Lynn Rieger, the Dean of Children's Church at Grace, James Dallas, and I are excited to have started the lesson planning process and getting the classroom ready to welcome back children of all ages. However, the reality that several of our members moved away during the past year means we lost some of our teachers. We need your help in volunteering to help with Children's Church. Don't worry; you don't need to be a former schoolteacher, an expert in scripture or crafts or even be able to get down on the floor with the kids. You just need to be able to commit to one Sunday every few weeks to share your faith by assisting one of us. (Diocesan rules require a minimum of two adults per class to keep our little ones safe.)

In return, it has been my experience that you will receive at least three gifts:

1. We will continue to grow Grace Church by offering Children's Church. And children that regularly attend church as kids, tend to stick with it as adults.
2. The children's lessons follow the liturgical calendar, and they will be learning the same scriptures that the adults read each week. You'll gain a whole new appreciation of the Word knowing that you will be explaining it at a child's level. Don't worry, the Holy Spirit and sometimes the kids will help you out if you get stuck!
3. The best gift of all is how the experience will boost your own faith by seeing faith through a child's eyes. As Lynn so wisely puts it, "God has already planted the seed in the child to want to know God. Our job is to nourish it." I admit that I was a little nervous when I first volunteered to get involved with Children's Church, but it has been one of the most rewarding "jobs" I have ever done.

Please pray on this need and if you can help us with Children's Church, please see Lynn, James, or me.

Susan Austin, Junior Warden

Please Think About It

After hearing that Children's Church was starting back up, I was beyond excited for the news! My brother and sister are thrilled by the news too.

My Grammy tells me that we need more adults to help teach. So, if you would, please think about helping out so I don't have to get stuck with my grandmother all the time.

Thank you,

Emily McGhee, 12 years old

(For All the Kids)

Painting by Pat Mayo Now in Faith Hall

A beautiful painting of Grace Episcopal Church resides in Faith Hall thanks to a generous donation from Pat Mayo, a member of our church for more than 12 years.

I tried to find the right words to describe the painting, but you have to see the work of art to truly appreciate it. A photograph of the artwork can be found on Grace's Facebook page. More great news: Pat's plans include more paintings of Grace.

When she was 7-years-old, Pat Mayo picked up her first paint brush and started creating art. Throughout her life painting has always been an important activity for her in addition to being a wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Professionally, she was a newspaper reporter, public relations representative, and art teacher.

Over the years she has created more than five hundred works of art. Some decorate her home and others the homes of family and friends. I am the proud owner of 2 Pat Mayo originals. She's exhibited at many art shows including Tennessee Art League and at the Spring Hill Library.

Pat is the leader of Creative Mondays at Grace where she shares her artistic skills. Participants thank Pat for her creative words of wisdom and know that their works are improved thanks to her expertise and advice.

Creative Mondays take place the second and fourth Monday of each month in Faith Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome. Not everyone paints. Some crochet, color, or just enjoy the fellowship. And finally, you really need to see the painting in person to appreciate it.

Carol Martinez, Liaison for Communications

Hymn Selection Process Revealed

Most of my Grace Notes articles have to do with the authors and composers of the hymns we sing; while pondering this article, I thought that someone might be interested in what goes into the selection of the music each week.

The main planning source that Fr. Joe and I use is the *Episcopal Musician's Handbook*. It is published each year according to the Lectionary Year and gives suggestions for hymns and service music that will enhance and interpret the scripture readings for the day. The hymn suggestions in the book are from

several hymnals: The Hymnal 1982 (which we use at Grace); *Lift Every Voice and Sing*; *Wonder, Love, and Praise*; and *Voices Found*.

There are quite a few things which I consider when selecting hymns, and they include—in no particular order—whether or not it is familiar to the congregation, and if it is unfamiliar, how can I introduce it? Scriptural references and theological teaching, and are there words that might need explanation? Also, how often do we sing this hymn? In the hymnal I use on Sunday morning I pencil in the date we sing it, and when during the service it was sung—the Procession, the Sequence, the Offertory, or the Procession Out into the World.

Fr. Joe and I frequently discuss the selection of hymns, and our varied backgrounds mean we have varied ideas. His knowledge of the Liturgy is something I depend upon to help me select hymns that will be both appropriate and edifying.

I love it when someone tells me that we sang one of their favorite hymns, and how meaningful it was to them. Please don't hesitate to tell me if there is a hymn you love and would like to sing more often.

Deanie Moore, Music Director

Grace Contributes to The Well

The people of Grace have contributed a total of **three hundred and twelve pounds of food and a check for \$50 to The Well** since Feb. 1.

Here is a new list of their needs: oatmeal, pancake mix, tuna and canned chicken, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta, canned peaches, box or bag of potatoes, flavored rice, and spaghetti sauce. The need is still great. A big thank you to all who contributed.

Charles Cochran, Community Outreach

Grace Financial Report for March 2022

March was close to having a positive balance. We fell short of balance by \$875.95. The plate revenue is picking up, though. Non-pledged plate income was nearly non-existent in 2021. In this first quarter of 2022, Grace has been graced with \$417 in January, \$482 in February, and \$1,607 in March. April also looks promising. We had many months in 2021 when there were no non-pledged

contributions. Additionally, pledges are up a bit from last year. Attendance is increasing and so is the revenue!

This financial information is the most current information that is available.

Finances for March 2022 are as follows:

Stewardship gifts:	\$6,240.00
Plate gifts:	\$1,607.00
Total Donor Gifts:	\$7,847.00
Facilities rental:	\$100.00
Vicar's discretionary fund:	\$200.00
Ash Wednesday's Gifts:	\$255.00
Total Revenue:	\$8,472.00
Total Expenses:	\$9347.95
Net Total:	-\$875.95

Banking Balances:

Checking balance:	\$3,763.71
Savings balance:	\$48,266.78

Breakdown of Savings:

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated fund:	\$4,116.33
Interest earned:	\$0.45

Total Savings

\$49,265.60

Total Assets:

\$52,030.49

David Thomas, Treasurer

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

Diann Schneider, Senior Warden
Susan Austin, Junior Warden
David Thomas, Treasurer
Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach
Carol Martinez, Communications
Will Pomeroy, Christian Education

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

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

