

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 9
September 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.*

Services and Continuing Events

Sun.	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Sun.	10 a.m.	Facebook Live Service
Mon.	1:00 p.m.	Creative Mondays (2 nd & 4 th Mondays)
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Father Joe, <i>Office Hours</i>
Wed.	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist

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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.

Sept. 14	Holy Cross Day
Sept. 21	St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Sept. 25	Bless The Well Food Donations

Sept. 29	St. Michael & All Angels
Oct. 4	Francis of Assisi, Friar & Deacon
Oct. 6	Grace Ladies Lunch
Oct. 9	Bless the Animals at Grace
Oct. 18	St. Luke the Evangelist
Oct. 30	Bless The Well Food Donation
Oct. 30	Fifth Sunday Brunch

The Vicar's Vagaries

Of all the things happening in the past 10 days or so, matters relating to Queen Elizabeth II and her death last Thursday (September 8) seem to me to be the most surprising and the most worthy of reflection. In spite of my intense interest in the U. S. Open Tennis Tournament, which concluded yesterday, and the football games that the University of Tennessee and the Titans played last weekend, and my trip Thursday afternoon to the doctor's office with my dad, the steady stream of television and print content about Queen Elizabeth has risen above everything else to get my attention.

When a people are suffering, a long procession lifts us up by its dignity and grace. When we are confronted by a mystery like the death of a monarch and grandmother, listening to scripture read in beautiful churches gives form to our confused thoughts and feelings. When we are hurting, singing the praises of God is good medicine for the soul.

I am surprised by the long, slow processions with the hearse and the coffin that holds Elizabeth's earthly remains. No matter how long it takes to get from the starting point to St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, the television silently relays a beautiful view of the solemnity. Whenever I turn on certain channels, I am likely to see heads of provinces in

**St. Francis of Assisi and the Blessing of
Animals**

the Anglican Communion that are part of Great Britain or government officials reading with strong and noble voices familiar passages from Isaiah 25, Romans 8, or John 14. Choirs fill the chancel of large churches and sing glorious psalms and lead the singing of old hymns that we know so well. Heads of state pay tribute. Pundits reflect on the Queen's 70 year reign, how Elizabeth led Great Britain through not only decades and generations, but whole systems, such as the British colonial system, the struggle against Nazism, the transition from a world of radio to a world of television, and into the modern world with its family tragedies and violence and rejection of the tradition to which she was so devoted.

But no matter what happened, she found ways to help her people tolerate differences, accept mistakes, and continue to live in hope as a people led by a sovereign who was led by our sovereign God. There are many self-promoters and wolves in sheep's clothing are in public life. They often take a bad situation and make it much worse to gain some kind of advantage for themselves. Queen Elizabeth never deliberately made anything worse than it had to be. I have loved her for that steady virtue that recommends taking a brisk walk when one's world seems to be falling apart. I know a brisk walk won't undo a betrayal or heal a destroyed friendship, but sometimes it is the only thing a person can do. Take a brisk walk, if you can, and realize that there is a large world out there, and that you have your own place in it, by the grace of God. And remember Queen Elizabeth and her corgis stalking about the grounds of Balmoral Castle when she needed either to get away from it all or sort things out in a crisis.

May she rest in peace. Long live King Charles III!

Father Joe

On Sunday, October 9, we will have the Blessing of Animals at 1:00 p.m. If you have a dog or cat or other pet that you would like to bring for a blessing, come for a brief service in thanksgiving for our animal friends who enrich our lives so much. It is our custom to have this service on the Sunday afternoon closest to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who is known for the way he knew and loved God through his appreciation of all living things.

Father Joe

All About a Labor Day Hymn

Text: Come, Labor On by Jane L. Borthwick

Tune: ORA LABORA, by T. Tertius Noble

In honor of Labor Day, it occurred to me that "Come, Labor On" might be a suitable choice!

This hymn was written by Jane L. Borthwick (1813-1897) of Edinburgh, Scotland. A member of the Presbyterian Free Church of Scotland, she had a strong interest in missions. She supported Moravian work in Labrador, Canada, and took part in social ministries in Edinburgh. Her passion for mission work is reflected in this hymn. She was inspired by the parables in Matthew 9:37-38, Matthew 13, and John 4:35-38. These texts call us to work for the Kingdom of God, despite the opposition of the world. Our time on earth is limited, so we must use our God-given wisdom and resources diligently, until we hear "Servants, well done."

The tune ORA LABORA, which is Latin for "pray and work," was written by Thomas Tertius Noble, specifically for this text. Noble was a highly regarded organist, composer, and choirmaster, and served on the committees that created the 1916 and 1950 hymnals.

Deanie Moore, Music Director

David Thomas Tells His Story

I was the eldest child of a journalist/photographer/author and a high school art teacher, and my early years were primarily in the Louisville and Cincinnati areas. I married and left home quite early. I now have a fairly large family: five daughters, 19 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. Spreadsheets and calendars are very helpful with keeping up with them.

I started formal training on piano at age 11. At the same time, my best friend was learning guitar and taught me. He and I grew up with garage bands and I had a folk rock band through the Army years, playing the NCO and Officers' clubs at Fort Knox and some local restaurants. During that time, I started playing mandolin. I did not expand much more with music for the next 40 years.

In 2009, I started experimenting with multi-track recording, so I needed to learn more instruments to flesh out recordings. I have acquired many instruments since then and became passable on a few. Lessons on flute, bass and cello helped with that. It is really challenging to put together all the instrumentation and vocals.

After hustling neighborhood work on lawns and shoveling driveways, I started my work life in restaurants in various positions, but primarily cooking. I joined the Army at age 17 and spent most of my three years at Fort Knox, Kentucky where I was a Soils Analyst in the Corps of Engineers. After attending colleges in Kentucky, I enrolled in Middle Tennessee State University and completed undergraduate work in Urban Planning and graduate work in Public Administration.

I worked in city planning for the City of Murfreesboro, Biloxi, Mississippi, Wilson County, Tennessee, and later Williamson County. Within months, I was asked to organize Information Technology in Williamson and have remained there since.

I suppose I officially became an Episcopalian in February of 2019, when I was confirmed by Bishop Bauerschmidt at Grace. Although I have always considered myself Christian in faith and action, I had not been attached to any church nor faith since I was young. In recent years, I increasingly felt the desire to find a faith home. I sort of grew up in two

denominations: Catholic and Methodist, via the faiths of my two sets of grandparents.

I have lived in the Spring Hill area for more than 20 years. In the course of that time, I drove by Grace often and thought it was a beautiful place. I stopped to pick up plates from a few "Divine Swine" events and liked the people. I told my Baptist mother I was considering attending there. She said, "They're too Catholic". After looking into the particulars of the faith, I finally walked in the red door in July of 2017. I've attended since.

When COVID came into our lives, I had already become more deeply involved with Grace in a few areas (stewardship, treasury, and general volunteering). I am not sure what inspired me to try to broadcast services, but it happened. Early in 2020, we had a few months with only five people attending services and I started using just a phone on a tripod, and then moved into getting a bit better with one and later, two cameras. It has been fun and challenging at times. I do like to help where I can and maybe I was called to do so.

David Thomas as told to Karyl Chastain Beal

This article is one in an occasional series introducing us to the people who are members of the Grace Episcopal Church family. If you would like to be featured or have a recommendation of who should be featured, please reach out to Carol Martinez.

'Life After 50' Group Thanks Grace

"Life After 50" began with a few women getting together every Thursday. Most of the group crochet; some knit; and all creative people are welcome.

At the beginning, everyone made baby blankets for infants to go home with from the hospital. One year they supplied small Christmas stockings for the staff at some area nursing homes and lap robes for some of the residents. Another time the holiday project was to make winter stocking caps for the children at the Tennessee Children's Home in Spring Hill.

The group has been meeting in Faith Hall for three years. Recently, the group donated to Grace Episcopal Church to thank the church for hosting the meeting.

During the meetings everyone sits around a table while they work and talk. After all the problems of

the world are solved, the final discussion is often the most difficult: where should we go to lunch?

Everyone is welcome on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. For more information, please call *Diann Schneider*, 931-486-0377.

New Directory Research & Exploration

We are hopeful as we begin collecting family contact information and selfie pictures for the 2022-2023 Directory that Grace members will respond in a very expeditious manner - without the breakout of a national-wide epidemic this time.

Please reference your present directory and let me know if any further information needs to be included or excluded. Following Father Joe's recovery from COVID and return from vacation with his support we will email every Grace household requesting: Full name, spouse name, children's names, street, city, state and zip code, cell and house phone numbers and email addresses.

The most interesting, fun, and helpful addition is your selfie. Please be aware of things that might appear in the photograph as attached to your body: i.e., ceiling fans, pictures, light fixtures, and furniture. Please don't stress and just have fun taking your photo. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me proberts000@charter.net, or 931.625.6069.

Peggy Roberts

Mission Council July Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report – Dave Thomas, Treasurer

Please see the Treasurer's Summary in this edition.

The Finance Committee will meet to discuss compensation for Lay Staff. Fr. Joe's letter of agreement needs to be updated and a mutual ministry review needs to be completed. These matters should be discussed during an upcoming meeting of the Mission Council.

A special meeting of the Audit Committee will be scheduled in the next few days. Chuck Warnick has agreed to serve in Bill Rieger's place.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Joe Davis

Fr. Joe shared news about the passing of Joy McKnight and Bernice Haug. Children's Church is back in session. All are glad to see this return. Fr. Joe shared highlights of the General Convention. Of

interest were potential changes to the Book of Common Prayer and the potential for more liturgies for services in the future. Divine Swine for 2022 has been tabled. COVID 19 was discussed. Cases are rising in Davidson and surrounding counties. No changes predicted for services for the immediate future. Wednesday Eucharist Service is working well.

Senior Warden's Report – Diann Schneider

Diann Schneider has sent out Mission Council Member of the Day (MCMOD) assignments for the rest of the year. Mission Council members handle finding a substitute if they will not be present on their assigned Sunday. Schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in Faith Hall.

Diann has not had a reply from the Diocesan Office about the audio equipment. We have the possibility to wait until that staff returns from General Convention or we can decide to dispose of it now.

Will Pomeroy is unable to be Santa Claus and close the church on Christmas Eve. Fr. Joe and other members of the council assured Will the church will be safely closed after church that night. The Sunday School room looks wonderful. Thanks to Lynn and all who helped spruce it up for Children's Church.

Diann asked if anyone has had trouble locking or unlocking the church. If so, please let her or Susan Austin know.

Jr. Warden's Report – Susan Austin

Susan reported the following items:

- The groundhog has been live-trapped and relocated. A board has been placed over the entry hole.
- There is serious wood rot on the bottom of the exterior Sacristy door. Use caution when using this door.
- Susan will speak with the contractor who is overseeing the stained-glass window project, to address specific needs for repair on the bottom edge of the church building.
- Defibrillator equipment - After further discussion, Will Pomeroy moved to not replace the old equipment. Carol Martinez seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cards with the church's physical address will be found at phones and other strategic places within the building.

- AA Group – Susan Austin received a request from the AA Group that they be allowed an extra hour for meetings. After discussion, Fr. Joe asked Susan to call and say that we do not wish to expand the hours at this time.

Ministry Liaison Reports

Children's Ministry & Christian Education

- Will Pomeroy reported Children's' Church will continue this coming Sunday. The group is learning prayers.

Communications

- Carol Martinez reported the exterior street sign near the back of the church was badly faded and needed to be replaced. After discussion, it was decided to replace the sign. Fr. Joe will proof and approve the final sign before confirming the order. Carol moved to buy the new sign, at a price not to exceed \$500.00. Charles Cochran seconded. Motion unanimously carried.
- Carol shared statistics from our Facebook page, which were very encouraging.
- Our hosting for the website has changed.

Outreach

Charles Cochran reported The Well needs volunteers.

Congregational Life

Laurie McNutt reported the following:

- Still need people to sign-up to clean the facilities.
- Ladies Luncheon was held on July 9, 2022, at the Cracker Barrel. Nine were in attendance.
- Reminder about the upcoming potluck. The 5th Sunday in July (July 31st).
- Laurie is studying alternatives for a Ministry Fair during coffee hour, including holding it the later part of September.

New Business

Art Walk in September? Grace needs a chairperson to work with the Spring Hill committee to coordinate efforts and do the administrative work.

Chuck Warnick, Scribe

Grace Finances July 2022

Revenues were lower in July, but we are still on track for having a good year - particularly compared to the past two COVID years. Revenues fell a bit short of expenses, but we still have a positive balance for the year - AND still have not had to transfer any savings during 2022.

Although we are in our normal cycle of less income in the summers, we still have a good showing in the plate income. This report reflects only information through July, the most recent available. Following is the most recent funds information, as of this writing.

Finances for July 2022 are as follows:

Pledged offerings:	\$5,458.00
Plate offerings:	\$1,091.00
Special offerings:	\$100.00
Total offerings:	\$6,649.00
Facilities rental:	\$125.00
Total revenue:	\$6,774.00
Total expenses:	\$7,517.81
July net total:	-\$743.81

Banking balances:

First Horizon checking account:	\$6,908.45
First Horizon savings account:	\$48,268.36

Savings Account Fund Breakdown:

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated fund:	\$4,117.57
Interest earned:	\$0.30

Total available funds plus checking: \$55,176.81

David Thomas, Treasurer

Please note: Fr. Joe will be on vacation until Thursday, October 6. The Wednesday noon services will resume on Wednesday, October 12.

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

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