

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 8
 August 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.

Aug. 14 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Aug. 15	St. Mary the Virgin
Aug. 24	St. Bartholomew the Apostle
Aug. 28	Blessing of Food Donation for The Well
Aug. 29	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Sept. 1	Ladies Luncheon
Sept. 14	Holy Cross Day
Sept. 21	St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Sept. 25	Blessing of Food Donations for The Well
Sept. 29	St. Michael & All Angels

Vicar's Vagaries: Honest Prayer

It seems that if we are ever going to be on our best behavior, it would be when we pray. Who can hide anything from God? We even admit that God can see right through us in one of the first prayers of the Holy Eucharist: "Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid..."

However, we can't see ourselves with the clarity of God's vision because we usually have intricate defense systems built up to prevent us from knowing ourselves too terribly well. If we are not in the habit of being strictly honest with ourselves, we probably won't be honest to God. Think about some of the prayers we find in our hearts, and see if you agree.

"Lord, make me a better person...just not today." This is not really a prayer about becoming a better person; it's about putting off doing what we know is right. It's a great prayer for putting off practicing virtues of any type. The man who became Augustine of Hippo used this prayer to put off responsibility for becoming chaste, and I believe it worked until Augustine wanted God more than he wanted sex. This is a good prayer to say when we eat our third cookie after lunch, or when we know we are spending too much time on the computer, phone, or television and not enough time doing our

chores, fulfilling our work obligations, or just being with family members. We would be a little more honest if we revised this prayer to “Lord, let me slide by a little longer. For the time being, Lord, my will be done.” It’s not likely that the God of love, who sent his Son to be born a man and die on the cross for us, will be pleased by this prayer, though he may give us what we want, though it be to our own detriment. He is patient, and sometimes he has to wait a long time before we come around to finding out that we need to depend on him for all good things.

Here’s another favorite. “Lord, prove yourself to me.” This prayer can appear in the form of, “Show up and heal my loved one of his illness,” or “her addiction.” Or it could be, “Give me success in what I am doing, and I will do anything you say.” The problem with this prayer is that God has already proved himself so much that the problem is not with him; it’s with us. We may not be able to see his presence in creation or in the support he has given us all our lives or in his word in holy scripture; but that does not mean he is not there. As St. Paul has written, “We walk by faith, not by sight.” Sometimes this means we walk in the darkness, but usually God gives us just enough light to see where to put our foot for the next step. “Lord, lead me and guide me when I do not know the way” would be a humbler and more realistic prayer. As he led the people of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years, to test and prove them, so they would learn to depend on him, so does he lead us through our wilderness so we can learn the same thing. And life is not all desert. God shows up in the most surprising ways, when we least expect it. A healthy diet of scripture will convince us of this truth.

“Lord, give justice to my enemies! Strike them down!” And if we are really feeling it, we could throw in, straight from the Psalter, “Give them continual trembling in their loins!” Whew! Surely, our enemies deserve to be walloped on the backside, or they wouldn’t be our enemies; but this prayer can boomerang back on us. If you ask for justice for your enemies, God may begin to think you also want what *you* deserve. This could mean he may let up on the grace and mercy that keep him from giving you full justice yourself. A safer and better prayer would be, “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

It pays to be as honest as possible in our prayers. God can take the truth. He invented truth! Be your true self with God, and he will be his gracious and merciful self with you. But a slightly dishonest prayer is better than no prayer at all. God can take a pretty poor prayer and work on the heart from which it comes until, over time, that heart gradually shifts until it is in just the right place. As long as the conversation keeps going, God is winning the battle for our souls. So even though your prayers may not feel like much, keep praying. Give more time to prayer. Be regular. Ask for help. The Holy Spirit will come through. In time, you may be praying like Augustine of Hippo—after he grew up.

Father Joe

Flowers Bloom at Grace

The Altar/Flower Guild works very faithfully each week to have the altar ready and set up for the Eucharist. It is our honor, privilege, and gift to Grace to do that. Another part of what we do is to try and have flowers or greenery on the plant stands as well.

Sometimes we are able to make arrangements since our members are very talented, but there are times when it doesn’t work out that way either due to financial reasons or mostly due to time and obligation restraints. The financial aspect of Grace does not include a flower budget so we make do as we can. Everyone is aware that we ask for donations at those important times of year such as Advent/Christmas and Easter to adorn our altar area with the appropriate flowers. As time and the economy changes these flowers grow in price and sometimes decrease in availability. The congregation at Grace is always so gracious and generous to help us out with these times and we thank you so much.

We also occasionally have a special event such as a baptism or a wedding and we try our best to meet those expectations. And additionally, we have special dedications on things such as anniversaries of marriages, deaths, ordinations, and the birthday of a child or just in honor of someone or special event. The cost for altar flowers is \$75 to \$100. All of these celebrations we love to respect and honor. So therefore, we are requesting that if anyone has a special occasion that you would like to celebrate,

please let us know. We will be happy to fulfill that request and make that known in our Sunday bulletin.

Linda Colmore, Altar Guild

*Note: If you would like to give flowers in memory of a friend or loved one or in honor of someone living, or in thanksgiving for an anniversary, or just “to the glory of God,” please donate to the Grace Church Flower Fund in the offering plate, or mail in your check, or give online. Linda was being modest in her article—but our flower guild actually does professional quality arrangements, donating their time and saving the church a great deal of money. The cost for giving two arrangements on a special occasion runs from \$75.00 to \$100.00 for buying the flowers alone. (If you **have** flowers that can be used, you may talk to Linda about bringing some to church so that we can use those! I wonder if she could use some of our hydrangeas?)*

Also, if anyone would like to join the flower guild, please tell Linda, and she will arrange for your training. We would welcome new people to this ministry which assists us as we seek to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

Father Joe

Deanie Moore Makes Music at Grace

Every Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church, we’re welcomed to the service by a musical prelude played for us by Deanie. Deanie Moore, that is. She’s almost hidden from sight, and yet the sounds that come from her talented fingers and heart fill the church, not just at the beginning but all throughout the service.

Ironically, Deanie came to us by way of a funeral – the funeral of Diann Schneider’s mother. She was acquainted with some of the Schneider family, so she attended the funeral, which was held in the church. After the service, she spoke with the organist Kimberly Sprinkle Hopkins.

Later, Deanie was recruited to substitute for a few times, and then, when Kimberly decided to get married and leave, Deanie was offered the job of organist and music director. She accepted the offer and has never regretted it, not even for a moment.

Deanie was born and raised in northern Virginia, Fairfax County. Her mother was a piano teacher, so naturally, she began piano lessons when she was

only four years old. Her father was a Baptist pastor and one of her brothers is a retired pastor. Her other brother is a retired computer engineer.

After she graduated, Deanie went to the University of Richmond in Virginia, majoring in music even though she wasn’t sure what she wanted to do afterwards. Then, she went to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. She focused on music and choral directing; she’d decided that her goal would be to work in churches, lead choirs, and lead worship services.

In September of 2010, Deanie married Tom Moore and they moved to the Spring Hill area. Since she was raised as a Baptist, working in the Episcopal Church has been both a real education and a positive experience for Deanie. She’s full of praise for Father Joe; she says that collaborating with him is wonderful. He’s so patient explaining why things are the way they are to her, and he’s flexible. They work together well. (She admits that not all of the pastors she’s worked with have been so understanding.)

Deanie commented, “Working at Grace is the happiest job I’ve ever had. On many Sundays someone at the church expresses appreciation to me for what I do.” She is always available for weddings, baptisms, and unique events like the Spring Hill Artwalk.

When Deanie is not making music, she enjoys spending time with her cat Maggie, also known as Magnificat. Danette Olsen started the Quilting Ministry at Grace and Deanie joined in on this effort. She continues to make wonderful handmade treasures for those who are ill.

I think that most of us would say that we’re very fortunate to have Deanie Moore guiding our music program and playing hymns for us every Sunday.

Karyl Chastain Beal

This article is the first 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 on who should be featured, please reach out to Carol Martinez.

Teaching Children Is a Blessing

Our Children’s Church program was re-launched on July 10 after a hiatus of over two years. As one of

the several adult volunteers involved in this program before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was very exciting to see its return.

The return of this program is the result of serious planning and has been a labor of love on the part of Lynn Rieger, Susan Austin, Nicole Poirier, and others. We have adopted a new curriculum this year that is well-structured and liturgical.

But while their arduous work must be recognized, it also must be noted that involvement in this ministry does not require years of preparation or formal teaching credentials; my involvement in the children's ministry came about as the result of fortuitous and fortunate circumstances.

Before COVID-19, my daily schedule tended to involve waking up very early to commute every day to Nashville for work. As a result, I tended to favor waking up early on Sundays to attend the 8 a.m. service. The Maury County CO-OP store across the street had not yet been demolished, and our parking space back then was limited to the spaces we have on the south side of Beechcroft. I often found my car "boxed in" by others who were arriving for the 10 a.m. service. On some mornings I was unable to leave the parking lot. While I sometimes opted to attend the later service, and other times went across the street to the Methodist Church, I frequently found myself wanting to do some sort of volunteer service for the church during the 10 o'clock hour.

Furthermore, after I started attending Grace, I received an email reminding church volunteers to complete the "Safeguarding God's People" course, which is a requirement for Children's Church volunteers. I did not need to complete this course at that time, but because the email was worded a bit ambiguously, I went ahead and completed it anyway.

Thus, with both the motivation and the eligibility, I began to get involved in the children's program in 2019. I do not intend to suggest that I was compelled to do so, or that I'm a victim of circumstance -- quite the opposite, actually! I feel truly blessed to have been led in the direction of helping with the Children's Church. It is so encouraging to see the children so enthusiastic to learn and participate. Furthermore, I feel like I am developing a deeper understanding of the Gospels having had an opportunity to help teach them to others.

James Dallas

Grace Assists with The Well Outreach Ministry

During June and July, the people of Grace donated 225.2 pounds of food and other essential items to The Well Outreach, an organization that supplies food aid and more to families in our community. Our donation included 152 pounds from a family who prefers to remain anonymous.

The Well is now serving six hundred families a week and they are very appreciative of the help that they receive from Grace Episcopal Church. So, a big thank you to all who contribute to this outreach ministry.

Charles Cochran, Community Outreach

Lights Camera Action

Everyone has been asking when we are going to update our Grace Church Selfie Directory? It has been two years since the intrusion of COVID-19 into our lives in Spring Hill, and the production of our first selfie directory. The time is now, this fall 2022. Now, we know a pandemic can't stop us, but the directory will require everyone's cooperation. If you and your family choose not to be listed in the directory, that is okay. We all found we were really dependent on having that 20-21 information at our fingertips, in the car, office, kitchen, and purse. Early this September I will request the information you wish included, i.e., spouse, children, home phone, cell phone, home address, and email addresses.

The fun part of this project is that we are our own best photographers and a lighthearted selfie of you and your family will complete the input for your family. Once the directory is published free of charge to you, each household can pick up their copy in Faith Hall. This is a "low, low, low" budget production so home delivery isn't possible this year.

Without pandemic complications, my intention is to gather your information and pictures in a prompt fashion, and only your cooperation is needed.

Peggy Roberts

Cleaning the Church Continues

Our parishioners have saved our church \$1,425 (\$285 per month) since March of this year when the

Mission Council voted to cancel our church cleaning service and do the cleaning ourselves.

Many thanks to all who have helped or are continuing to help with this work. I understand that not everyone can help. I know that many of you have other responsibilities to the church that consume much of your time, your energy, and in some cases, your money. I hope the cleaning ministry may appeal to others who may be looking for service opportunities that can be short lived or long term. We now sign up to clean a selected area of the church for a period of one month. The areas are: 1) The narthex and nave of the church 2) bathrooms 3) kitchen 4) Faith Hall. The Altar Guild manages the area starting with the steps up to the altar area, the chancel, the sanctuary, and the sacristy.

All of the cleaning may be done “as needed” and consists mostly of dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, and mopping. In the kitchen, the dishwasher needs to be loaded and unloaded regularly.

The Daughters of the King have volunteered to do “deep cleaning” such as the stove, oven, fridge, blinds, shutters, cabinet tops, and vents annually. We are all new at this, so any suggestions for improvement are welcome.

I was recently inspired by a devotional reading that ended with this thought: “Does your to-do-list crowd out your time-to-be with God?” Maybe the two can become one, as St. Paul suggested in Colossians 3: 23, “*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not to men.*”

Laurie McNutt, Congregational Life

Grace Finances for June 2022

Revenues slowed in June, but we are still on track for having a good year. June revenues fell short of expenses by \$4,678.54, we have a positive balance of \$5,743.69 for the year.

As to revenue sources, pledged offerings for the year increased 3% over the previous year. The real change is from plate income. With only half the year out of the way, plate offerings are already more than three and a half times the amount expected in the budget for the entire year. This report reflects only information through June, the most recent available. Following are the most recent funds information, as of this writing.

Finances for June 2022 are as follows:

Pledged offerings:	\$3,558.00
Plate offerings:	\$1,300.00
Special offerings:	\$100.00
Total offerings:	\$4,958.00

Facilities rental:	\$100.00
Total revenue:	\$5,058.00
Total expenses:	\$9,536.54
June net total:	-\$4,478.54

Banking balances:

First Horizon checking account:	\$7,652.26
First Horizon savings account:	\$48,267.96

Savings Account Fund Breakdown:

Organ fund:	\$23,500.00
Building fund:	\$20,650.00
Undesignated fund:	\$4,117.57
Interest earned:	\$0.36

Total available funds plus checking: **\$55,920.19**

David Thomas, Treasurer

Mission Council Highlights June 2022

Finance Report – David Thomas, Treasurer

Year-to-date, gifts and other income exceeded expenses by \$1,621.98. This includes some pledges that have been given in full for the year. Income is expected to taper off as the year progresses. Plate gifts are up over the previous year and are above budget expectations. The finance committee audit is due in August.

Vicar’s Report – Fr. Joe

Plans for the baptism of Peter Carper were announced.

Divine Swine for 2022 was initially discussed. Further discussion will occur at the July 2022 Mission Council meeting.

The stained-glass window work continues and will not be completed in July.

Fr. Joe will be taking some time off during the last week of June to recover from surgery.

Senior Warden’s Report – Diann Schneider

Final discussion on the Mission Council Member of the Day (MCMoD) included duties and scheduling. Diann will present a schedule for upcoming

Sundays. Readers should be receiving their calendar assignments from James.

Jr. Warden's Report – Susan Austin

There are critters under the church, with a clear entrance near the sacristy exterior door. Once removed, the hole needs to be closed and repaired.

Discussion concerning the defibrillator replacement included the possibility to lease or buy the equipment. Members of the Council and Fr. Joe will canvass medical and EMS sources to see if we should replace the unit. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Ministry Liaison Reports:

Children's Ministry & Christian Education – Will Pomeroy.

Children's Church will resume on July 10th. James Dallas, Lynn Rieger, Nicole Poirier, and Susan Austin will be teachers.

Communications – Carol Martinez.

The Grace Facebook page needs to be closely checked, with emphasis on granting requests to join the page.

Community Outreach – Charles Cochran.

Grace donated seventy-seven pounds of food to the Well last week.

Congregational Life - Laurie McNutt.

Grace is still in need of people to sign-up to clean the facilities. Ladies Luncheon was held June 2, with six in attendance. Another Potluck Luncheon is scheduled for July 31. Discussion was held concerning a Ministry Fair in the future, in the fall, highlighting opportunities for service for our members.

Old Business:

Organ Refurbishment – no further information from this taskforce.

New Business:

Emphasis on bulletin insert subjects included donations to The Well (food, funds, and volunteer services), the Vicar's Discretionary Fund, and Ask Your Priest.

Upcoming Mission Council Meetings: July 20, 2022, August 17, 2022, and September 14, 2022, all at 6:00 p.m.

Chuck Warnick, Scribe

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>.

