

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume IV, Issue 10
October 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.	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist

Newsletter Articles

Vicar's Vagaries	Pg. 1-2
Blessing of St. Francis Window/All Saints	Pg. 2
Daughters Fall Assembly	Pg. 2
Best Day of My Life	Pg. 3
Choir Singing Returns	Pg. 3
Neighborhood Food Insecurities	Pg. 3
Partnership with MCHS	Pg. 3-4
Ministry Fair Scheduled	Pg. 4
Grace Finances	Pg. 4-5
Mission Council	Pg. 5

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.

Oct. 29 Diocesan Day of Prayer
Oct. 30 Bless The Well Food Donation

Oct. 30	Fifth Sunday Brunch
Oct. 30	Collection - Vicar's Discretionary Fund
Nov. 1	Ladies Luncheon
Nov. 5	Blessing of New Stained Glass Window
Nov. 6	Grace Ministry Fair
Nov. 20	Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 27	The First Sunday of Advent
Nov. 30	St. Andrew the Apostle
Dec. 1	Ladies Lunch Christmas Party

The Vicar's Vagaries

Diocesan Day of Prayer

The year's Diocesan Day of Prayer is on Saturday, October 29. In the past, we have had volunteers commit to praying for thirty minute shifts through the day. We recommended topics of prayer such as the needs of our community, combatting Covid 19, or praying for the healing of political division and the improvement of relations between people of different races. We posted a sign-up sheet and broke the day into 30 minute segments. We will again sign up for times through the day for prayer, as in a prayer vigil. This time, I would like to add an aspect of group involvement for everyone concerned.

Each of us may submit two or three top prayer concerns to be combined into a document we may all share and refer to in our prayer time that day. This will be a way of asking the whole congregation to pray that day for matters that are important to each of us right now, such as a relative with cancer, or a child having difficulties in school or work, or the coming elections, or relief and freedom for the people of Ukraine and peace for the people of Russia, or the

children and teachers at Grace Church, or comfort for yourself or someone else who is grieving.

Please send the concerns you want us to pray for to me by email, letter, or personal note so that they reach me no later than Wednesday, October 26. I can put them together in an email and send it out to the congregation on Thursday, October 27. I could also leave paper copies of the list at church for people to pick them up on Wednesday afternoon, especially if they don't use email.

Please give this idea some thought and sign up to pray for a time segment with your fellow church members. The Day of Prayer will be divided into 30 minute segments between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If signing up doesn't work for you, just pick your own time, but let us know you are taking part by putting your name on the list or sending me word.

In addition to what we are doing for the Day of Prayer, please note that we are all invited to attend a service of Morning Prayer broadcast on the diocesan Facebook page at 9:00 a.m.

This is an event in which it does not matter how old or young you are. All can do their part. The experience of praying for the concerns of others while knowing they are praying for your concerns could be quite powerful. Thirty minutes may seem like a long time, but once you are in a quiet place and begin to pray, the time may fly by.

Father Joe

Blessing of the St. Francis Window and Our Commemoration of All Saints

Everyone who has gone to church at Grace lately has noticed the new stained glass window. At 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5, members of our congregation will gather to thank God and to bless the new stained glass window at Grace Church. This window is a gift to God and Grace Church from Donna and Sammy Isbell in memory of their son Chad Bodine. It depicts St. Francis in a natural setting with a few members of the animal kingdom. The dog with St. Francis pays tribute to the service dog that helped Chad so much and was his dearly loved companion for years. The window celebrates the goodness of God that we enjoy in creation, and

its placement right by where Chad used to sit will remind us and future generations of this beloved and unique young man who used to attend Grace and now has gone on to become part of the fellowship of the Communion of Saints.

The next Sunday, November 6, will be our commemoration of the Feast of All Saints, which occurs on November 1. We transfer the major celebration of the day to Sunday so the largest number of people can be present. On this day, we will remember in prayer all our loved ones who have died in the past year. Please tell me or John Harvey as soon as possible the names of any persons you would like us to include in the list.

Fr. Joe

Daughter's Fall Assembly

The Order of the Daughters of the King Fall Assembly was on September 17 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin. The Daughters' President for the Diocese of Tennessee is Rita Sue Warner who presented her annual report and stated we had twenty daughters who took vows this year with an additional three in training to become daughters. There are 371 daughters in the Diocese of TN (including daughters at large, who are unable to attend due to infirmity or lack of proximity to a local chapter). There are twenty-three chapters in the Diocese. Our chapter is the Daughters of Grace with Lynn Rieger, Laurie McNutt, Carolyn Warnick, and me as members. We welcome any woman who feels called to learn more about us and/or study to take the vows of a Daughter of the King.

We are in Province IV (our geographical region of the U.S.) of the Daughters. Kathy House is our Province IV President. She spoke to us at the Fall Assembly and encouraged us "to pray for courage to step up and step out" in faith to serve our God by giving service to our chapters and diocese. She reminded us that we are women of the Holy Spirit in a sisterhood and journey to serve God's people. She read a beautiful prayer to us which is in this newsletter. I think it is inspiring and beautiful, and I hope you feel the same.

For His Sake,
Sheila Flynn

The Best Day of My Life

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it today; but I did! And because I did, I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings and yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger. I will go through this day with my head held high and with a happy heart. I will marvel at God's simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds.

Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice. Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and His Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

Tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends, and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation, because I know tomorrow is going to be.....The Best Day of My Life!

Author Unknown

Choir Singing Returns to Grace

Many good movies and songs have the word *return* in them, "Return to Sender," "Batman Returns," "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," "Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi," and even "The Return of Godzilla."

Things here at Grace have been returning over the last year following the pandemic, but I am most excited about our choir returning on Sunday mornings at Grace Episcopal Church.

We have already begun meeting on Sunday mornings at 9 o'clock to learn some new anthems, and also practice some old favorites. We will be preparing to sing during the offertory, as well as during communion. We will also be preparing music for Advent and Christmastide.

Everyone is welcome to sing with us. There is no audition required – all we need is a joyful heart.

Ephesians 5:19 tells us to "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord."

Deanie Moore, Music Director

Neighborhood Food Insecurities

Have you been thinking that we all need to dig deeper into our pantry for The Well? Now there is a fantastic opportunity. Local food needs at The Well have increased 80% in August and 90% in September compared to 2021. As you may know, The Well serves anyone in need of food, but primarily residents of Maury and Williamson counties. For The Well this demand creates a 90% greater need for food but also results in a need for more volunteers to distribute this food to our neighbors. The holiday season also will only exacerbate additional need for food and support.

Grace Episcopal Church's latest contributions have included 208 pounds of staples plus \$100. On a much larger scale, The John Maher Whole Hog Festival was attended by approximately 6,000 people and raised about \$47,000 for The Well. Thank you to everyone who participated in this effort.

Is there any possibility that we can increase our efforts to meet the 90% increase in demand? Can we volunteer our time to support The Well and our neighbors with this challenge? Prayers are of immense benefit. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Community Outreach

In Partnership with the Maury County Historical Society

Grace Episcopal Church has always enjoyed a mutually friendly and supportive relationship with the Maury County Historical Society. As many of

you may recall, in 2020, our beloved steeple bell had gone silent for several months. The Maury County Historical Society had sent out an invitation to apply for a grant to repair/improve identified historical properties in the county. Grace Episcopal Church was fortunate enough to be awarded one of those grants to fix our bell.

In return, Grace Church has always answered to the call to be one of the host sites for the Maury County Historical Society's annual tours and other events. This brings attention to the work of both the Historical Society and to our church - a solution where everyone benefits.

This spring we received another invitation to apply for a grant from the Historical Society. During one of our Mission Council meetings, it was discussed that the interior public areas of our Church could use a refresh. We applied for a grant to cover the cost of the paint, brushes, drop cloths and other materials necessary to repaint Faith Hall, the office, pantry, kitchen, hallways, and restrooms. Congregation volunteers would complete the actual painting.

On September 12, I received a letter from the Maury County Historical Society that Grace Church would be awarded a grant of \$600 to be used for the identified refresh. On Monday, September 26, your Senior Warden, Diann Schneider, and I traveled to Columbia where we were presented with the actual check.

We certainly appreciate the ongoing partnership between the Maury County Historical Society and Grace Church.

Susan Austin, Junior Warden

Ministry Fair Scheduled

Have you been thinking about looking into the various ministry opportunities at Grace that could use your time and talents? If you have been thinking about this, then the Ministry Fair could help answer your questions. If you haven't been thinking about this, then it is hoped that the Ministry Fair will inspire and encourage you to do so. The Fair will take place on Sunday, Nov. 6 in Faith Hall following the morning worship service. Also, there are opportunities for those who attend Grace virtually to get involved. There will be a video with this information posted after the event.

Due to space constraints, only some of our ministries will be represented. We will need to plan a second fair in the Spring.

My first reason for suggesting the Fair was to recruit more workers, but after thinking, reading, and praying about it, I realized that the most important reason for holding it is to help parishioners find their calling. Thus, our stated purpose is:

To assist parishioners in finding their special niche in serving God and His church and to generate awareness, enthusiasm, and involvement among parishioners.

Our theme is: **Growing in Grace.**

The ministries represented at this fair will be:

1. Altar Servers (Acolytes, Crucifers, Chalice Bearers, Lay Readers, Eucharistic Visitors)
2. Altar Guild
3. Children's Church
4. Mission Council
5. Daughters of the King
6. Cleaning Ministry

Laurie McNutt, Congregation Life

Grace Finances for September 2022

September was a good month for Grace's finances. Revenues were slightly increased over those in August, and expenses were decreased by a third of those for August. September gave us revenues of \$9,935.00 and \$7,881.40 in expenses, leaving a positive balance of \$2,053.60.

Year to date, Grace is still holding up well. Even though there've been spikes to revenues or expenses, revenues are trailing expenses by only \$2,261.76. We notice the revenue side heading into the holidays and have not had to move any funds from savings. Following is the general breakdown of funds, and the detailed information on accounts is attached.

Finances for September 2022 are as follows:

Pledged offerings:	\$7,532.00
Plate offerings:	\$1,786.00
Special offerings:	\$492.00
Total offerings:	\$9,810.00
Facilities rental:	\$125.00
Total revenue:	\$9,935.00
Total expenses:	\$7,881.40
September net total:	\$2,053.60

Banking balances:

First Horizon checking account: \$6,075.06
First Horizon savings account: \$48,271.76

Savings Account Fund Breakdown:

Organ fund: \$23,500.00
Building fund: \$20,650.00
Undesignated fund: \$4,121.37
Interest earned: \$0.39

Total available funds plus checking: \$54,346.82

David Thomas, Treasurer

Highlights August Mission Council Minutes

Scribe's Report – Chuck Warnick - The July 20, 2022, Mission Council minutes were reviewed and accepted. A copy of the last version of the minutes will be sent to Susan Browning.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Thomas, Treasurer - *Please see the Treasurer's Summary in this edition.* The Audit Committee will complete its work before the deadline.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Joe Davis

- Funeral services for Bernice Haug are scheduled for August 20, 2022. Services for Allen Blumberg are yet to be determined.
- The Application for Small Employer Exception has been approved and is being processed, according to Susan Abingdon.
- Conversations with Canon Jody Howard about Review and LOA are to be scheduled.
- Mission Council Nominating Committee. Diann Schneider and Susan Austin will serve on this committee. Susan's term will be expiring at the end of this year. Laurie McNutt will be moving and creating an unexpired term. Positions and election slots will be reviewed.
- Job Descriptions: Outgoing Mission Council members should review or draft job descriptions in preparation for new members.
- Fr. Joe will be on vacation from Sept. 15th through Oct. 6.

Sr. Warden's Report – Diann Schneider

Diann Schneider has a new email address. Mission Council members should have received her notice of

the change. MCMoD and volunteer cleaning of the facilities continues.

Jr. Warden's Report – Susan Austin

- AA Group were contacted to let them know their request for additional facility use time was not approved.
- Defibrillator follow-up is complete.

Ministry Liaison Reports

Children's Ministry & Christian Education - Will Pomeroy

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, Children's Church will be paused until mid-September. The Mission Council will monitor to determine when it will resume. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin, but not on Facebook.

Communications – Carol Martinez

- The Artwalk has been cancelled for this year.
- CPR classes are being studied.
- Carol will attend the Stewardship Program being conducted by the Diocese.

Outreach – Charles Cochran

- Grace donated 252 lbs. of food to the Well in July.

Congregational Life – Laurie McNutt

- The Ministry Fair could have ten or more "station" opportunities. Susan Austin will meet with Laurie to discuss plans.
- Ladies Luncheon was held August 4th, with ten attending. Next Luncheon is scheduled for September 1st.
- Thanks to all who helped with the Reception for Joy McKnight's funeral. In the future, we will ask families to select either visitation before the service or a reception following the service.

Upcoming 2022 Mission Council meetings (all at 6:00 p.m.) September 14, October 19, November 16, and December 14.

At 7:20 P.M., Fr. Joe adjourned the meeting with a blessing.

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

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by using the QR code below.

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

