

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume V, Issue 12
 December 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.	10:30 a.m.	Inquirers Class (No class Tues. Dec. 21 & 28)
Tues. & Fri.	7 p.m.	AA Meeting
Wed.	12:00 Noon	Holy Eucharist
Thur.	12:00 Noon	Ladies Luncheon, (1 st Thur. of the month)

<u>Newsletter Articles</u>	
Vicar's Vagaries	Pg. 1-2
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	Pg. 2
Stained Glass Window	Pg. 2-3
What's New in Children's Church	Pg. 3-4
Grace Finances	Pg. 4
Mission Council Meeting	Pg. 4-5

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.

Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 21 St. Thomas the Apostle

12/15/2022 11:11 AM

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.
(Christmas Carols begin at 5:30 p.m.)
 Dec. 25 Christmas Day, no service
 Dec. 26 St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
 Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents
Jan. 1 New Year's Day; The Holy Name of Jesus
 Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Jan. 8 Annual Congregational Meeting
Jan. 15 Bishop's Annual Visit

The Vicar's Vagaries December 2022

We are heading into the second half of one of the longest Advents we will ever have. We might as well settle down and enjoy this extended period of waiting on the Lord. Christmas Eve, December 24, falls on Saturday this year. We will have our Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. that evening, with a festive Christmas carol singing at 5:30 p.m. There may even be some surprise musical guests to liven up our singing (but I don't expect Steve Winwood to show up at Grace this year). There will be no service on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. That next week, we won't have an inquirers class on Tuesday for the sake of people who would miss due to traveling. On Wednesday, December 28, we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents, which commemorates all the little boys who were killed by Herod after he learned of the birth of a child who would be King of Israel.

The next Sunday is January 1, which is a major feast in the Church Year. We call this day the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. A Jewish male was traditionally circumcised a week after his birth and given his name. The name of Jesus is a sign of what Jesus came to be and do. It means "Yahweh saves."

By sending Jesus to be born of the Virgin Mary, he sent his Son to be his incarnate Word, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and our Lord and Savior. We continue to sing Christmas carols that Sunday, as well as hymns celebrating the name of Jesus. The Church's celebration of Christmas continues through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6.

The next Sunday, January 8, we will have our annual congregational meeting, at which we will elect three new mission council members and report on the various ministries of the church for the last year. I will give my report on the life of the congregation over the past 12 months.

On January 15, Bishop John Bauerschmidt will make his annual visitation to Grace Church. There will be a reception in Faith Hall after the service. It is always a joy to have our bishop with us. In him we recognize our local successor to the Apostles themselves and our Father in God. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach that day. The loose offering and checks so designated will go to the bishop's discretionary fund that Sunday. Let us plan on giving him a warm welcome, as we always do.

Father Joe

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

by Charles Wesley

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

What a perfect hymn with which to sing during the season of Advent! Although there are only two stanzas, Wesley has given us a tremendous amount of meaning. The word "born" occurs four times and tells us an aspect of Jesus' mission: born to set thy people free; born thy people to deliver; born a child, and yet a king; and born to reign in us forever.

The tone of the hymn is a petition, or a prayer making a request of God. The writer is praying for Jesus to come to a world in need, for release from our fears and sins, to bring us rest and joy, for the Kingdom of God to come, for God to rule in our hearts, and for us to be raised to his glorious throne.

This hymn also includes references from both the Old and New Testament: The Messiah is Israel's strength and consolation, as promised for so long; also, the child who is a King, as told in the second chapter of Matthew.

I am praying that this hymn will be a blessing to you through the seasons of Advent and Christmas!

Deanie Moore, Music Director

Memory of young church member lives on through stained glass window dedication

By Dave Campbell

Special to Daily Herald

(This article was printed in The Columbia Daily Herald on Sunday, Nov. 13)

Sunbeams of vivid colors now light the inside of Grace Episcopal Church's sanctuary, signaling a remembrance of the "sweet spirit" of a young church member who passed away in 2018.

The custom-made window will now live on as a significant piece of the Spring Hill church's history. When the Isbell family started going to Grace Episcopal, their son Chad picked out a prime place to sit - in a pew by one of the windows, and the seat on that pew became known as "Chad's spot."

Sam and Donna Isbell, with the blessing of the church and its congregants, recently installed a memorial stained glass window where their son used to sit in the sanctuary.

Last week (Nov. 13), they celebrated with a dedication ceremony at the church for Chad, who was loved and known by many in the community.

Eighty-five people attended the dedication and blessing of the new adornment at the church.

“Family and friends traveled from Alabama and Florida,” Donna Isbell said. “One of our friends brought cookies that looked like the window. The service was simple and beautiful.” It was conducted by Rev. Joe Davis, Vicar of Grace,

Chad Bodine was autistic and almost entirely nonverbal, mostly using sounds to represent many words. He also struggled with physical limitations, which the family later found out was attributed to slight cerebral palsy.

Life expectancy is typically less for those in Chad’s situation, Donna explained. The family pointed out that there is only one person still living from Chad’s previous class.

Chad would sit looking out the window during church services, though his mother Donna said it seemed like he wasn’t paying attention, he was actually listening.

“When Chad passed away, Sam and I talked and said that if the window is ever replaced, we want to replace it for Chad,” Donna Isbell said.

Alicia Fitts, a Spring Hill friend of the Isbells whose own family history at the church is represented by another dedicated window at Grace Episcopal, helped facilitate the process of fashioning the window in memory of Chad.

Sherrill Hill, a friend of the family who connected with Chad, was called upon to undertake the creation of the memorial window for the Isbells after Chad passed away, while Noel Williams and Shane Clark constructed the window framing.

Jeff Williams and Elijah Gunter completed the window installation only a few weeks ago.

The window depicts a serene scene of Saint Francis walking with Chad’s service dog, Kayfee, while two cardinals are perched - one on the shoulder of the saint with another on a nearby tree branch.

The cardinals represent Chad and his twin brother Bradley.

“Chad loved animals, and he had a service dog that he really loved,” Donna said. “And we wanted the window to represent those with disabilities, since Chad had autism.”

The service dog, Kayfee was a Border Collie/Golden Retriever mixed breed that lived with the family for more than 14 years before the dog passed away from cancer.

It was Kayfee’s likeness along with a representation of Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals, that helped create the image that the Isbells would choose to have rendered on the colored glass of Chad’s memorial window.

Sam Isbell said that he feels the stained-glass artists did a great job matching the look of the window to its place in the 145-year-old church.

“It looks like it originally belonged there,” Sam said.

Kayfee, the service dog, at first served Chad when he was younger to help him complete activities within the bounds of his ability, while serving as a protector and friend.

Donna also recalls the reciprocal relationship Chad held with the church and its congregants.

“There were only seven people when we got there,” Donna said. “Somehow Chad’s sweet spirit became a part of the church, and the church really came around that.”

Chad used to enjoy the ringing of the church bell on a Sunday morning, but as the church grew and more people came, Donna said it was like Chad gave the job back over to other members.

“He passed the torch,” Donna said. “And he was a central part of the church.”

Donna said her son understood going, placing his hands on the altar rail and bowing his head for a blessing. “He got the concept of what church was,” Donna said. “And the concept of God’s grace.”

Chad had rich friendships. Other kids growing up would come to his aid and do most anything to help look after their friend.

At Chad’s funeral, Donna mentioned a high school student who told about how Chad has impacted his life.

“The student told me, “I wouldn’t be who I am today if it wasn’t for knowing Chad. It’s made me a better person.”

What’s New in Children’s Church

After a long hiatus, Children’s Church is finally back in motion. Our first day back was Sunday, Nov. 27, and we had a great time jumping into the Season of Advent. We have started with a new curriculum that provides the kids with the opportunity to get really involved with the Gospel lesson for the day. It includes acting out skits and playing

games. However, it also gives time to learning about what we do in church and why we do it.

We have set up our room to be a sacred space where we come to worship Christ. The kids seem to get a good deal out of it. Speaking of kids, I would like to give a shout-out to our great kids! Emily, Justin, Kylie McGhee; James and Ada Rose Poirier; and Barrett Pomeroy. Also, I would like to give a shout-out and thanks to our volunteers who provide leadership with the kids. Susan Austin, James Dallas, Nicole Poirier, and when she is in town, Erin Harvey.

We are looking for more volunteers to come and join our team and be amazed at how much you learn and further your own spiritual growth with the kids of Grace. And we would always welcome more kids to join us in Children’s Church!!

Lynn Rieger, Director, Children’s Church

Treasury Report for October 2022

October brought Grace revenues of \$6,513 which fell short of its \$9,126.75 in expenses. We were down with the cumulative bottom line for the year, but only by \$27.51. Thankfully, we are a few days away from Advent and Christmas, and revenues traditionally pick up a bit. It is fairly safe to think we’ll be finishing out the year on the positive side. It’s been a good year.

Following is the general breakdown of funds, and detailed information on accounts is attached. Note that the report addresses October.

Finances for October 2022 are as follows:

Pledged offerings:	\$4,433.00
Plate offerings:	\$1,355.00
Special offerings:	\$600.00
Total offerings:	\$6388.00
Facilities rental:	\$125.00
Total revenue:	\$6,513.00
Total expenses:	\$9,126.75
October net total:	-\$2,613.75

Banking balances:

First Horizon checking account:	\$8,431.06
First Horizon savings account:	\$48,277.53

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 savings:	\$56,708.59

David Thomas, Treasurer

October Mission Council Minutes

October 19, 2022

Attendance: Father Joseph Davis, Diann Schneider (Sr. Warden), Susan Austin (Jr. Warden), Charles Cochran, Laurie McNutt, Carol Martinez.

Fr. Joe recognized a quorum was present and gave an opening prayer.

Scribe’s Report – Carol Martinez: Minutes for September 2022 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: David Thomas sent the September financial reports to the mission council members. They were reviewed in his absence. September was another positive month, with revenues exceeding expenses. After discussion, the Treasurer’s reports were accepted. The Audit Committee Report and submission to the Diocese was mentioned.

Stewardship: Carol Martinez shared that plans for this year’s stewardship work were in progress.

Vicar’s Report: Fr. Joe shared the following items.

Canon Howard and Fr. Joe had a preliminary discussion on the possibility of a Korean Episcopal congregation sharing Grace’s facilities.

Carol Martinez introduced a motion as follows: "The Mission Council hereby decides to maintain through 2022 the full compensation package amount for the Vicar budgeted for the year 2022. This action will result in paying the Vicar the amount of money saved by Grace Church when the Vicar went on Medicare, as of April 1, 2022, which is \$577 per month from April through December." The motion was seconded by Diann Schneider.

After a brief discussion, Susan Austin offered an amendment to the motion, adding the following, “paying arrears as soon as possible, but before the end of the year.” The amendment motion was seconded by Diann Schneider. After discussion, the motion to amend the previous motion was

unanimously approved. The amended motion was unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: Diann Schneider and Susan Austin gave an information update on the progress of the Nominating Committee

Mission Council Job Descriptions: Descriptions for the positions of Senior Warden, Jr. Warden, and Congregational Life Liaison have been submitted. Fr. Joe mentioned the availability of suggested descriptions in the Vestry Papers online. The Mission Council set the date for final submissions for December 1, 2022.

The Blessing for the new window in the church will be held at 2:00 p on November 5, 2022, followed by a reception at the home of Sam and Donna Isbell.

Peg Agrimonti needs assistance with transportation to visit her husband, Larry, in Columbia. He continues physical rehabilitation. Those interested in offering rides for Peg can contact Peggy Roberts or Carol Martinez to be placed on the schedule.

The Diocesan Day of Prayer will be October 29, 2022. *See New Business*

Senior Warden's Report Diann Schneider had no items to report.

Jr. Warden's Report: Susan Austin reported the following items:

Grace received the grant check for the refurbishing of the fellowship hall. HVAC tune-up was performed. No problems to report. Gutters replacement found several areas of water damage. The amount for the work was \$15,000 and was covered by generous donations. The roof of the church and the fellowship hall both have significant damage and need to be repaired. The existing roof may last another 12-18 months at most. The likely cost will be \$12,000 - \$15,000. The dishwasher is leaking. It will be checked, but most likely will need to be replaced. The current dishwasher is at least 10 years old. Both bathroom toilets need to be examined and repaired. Charles Cochran will help Susan with this work.

Upcoming Events:

*Spring Hill's Annual Christmas Parade – December 10, 2022.

*Historical Tour – December 2-3, 2022.

*Grace Church's Annual Meeting – January 8, 2023. Susan distributed a Notice Schedule for preparations for this meeting.

*Fall Workday(s) – May need more than one workday in November, maybe after church – work clothes service.

*Christmas Eve service – December 24, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Liaison Reports:

Children's Ministry

Plans in progress to restart Children's Church, perhaps the 1st Sunday in Advent

Communications

CPR classes, to be led by a local firefighter, may be available after the first of the year.

Outreach

Grace donated 50 pounds of food and \$100 to the Well in September. There is a lot of continued need for food and support of this ministry.

“Ring the Bell” in Columbia is an opportunity for volunteering. The local Salvation Army loans kettles and bells to a local non-profit group, with donations retained by this charity.

Congregational Life

Ladies Luncheon was held on October 6 at Mama Dees. Ten women were in attendance. Alicia Fitts will host a “Bring Your Own Lunch” at her farm on November 3rd. Grace Potluck is scheduled for October 30th. Ministry Fair is scheduled for after church on November 6th. Cleaning Ministry needs volunteers, or the Mission Council may consider going back to a cleaning service.

Laurie McNutt submitted her resignation from the Mission Council, effective November 7, 2022. Laurie is moving away from Spring Hill. She felt she had been honored to serve and was truly saddened to leave Grace. She plans to have her membership remain at Grace and will visit as frequently as possible.

Susan Austin will create sign-up sheets for the Dioecian Day of Prayer. Susan Austin volunteered to draft an emergency call list for members of Grace Church. The Vicar and the Sr. Warden should have a copy.

With no further business, Fr. Joe closed the meeting with a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Warnick, Scribe

A blessed conclusion of Advent
to you and yours,
and may God grant you
a Christmas Season
full of joy!

From your Grace Notes
Editorial Staff

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
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>.

