

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 2
 February 2023

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.

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.

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
Tues.	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting
Fri.	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting

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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.

Feb. 26 First Sunday in Lent

Feb. 26	Blessing of items for The Well
March 1	Lenten Series I (Weds. 6 pm)
March 2	Ladies Lunch
March 8	Lenten Series II (Weds. 6 pm)
March 12	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 15	Lenten Series III (Weds. 6 pm)
March 16	Mission Council Meeting (6 pm)
March 22	Lenten Series IV (Weds. 6 pm)
March 25	The Annunciation
March 29	Lenten Series V (Weds. 6 pm)
April 2	Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
April 6	Maundy Thursday
April 7	Good Friday
April 8	Holy Saturday
April 9	Easter Day

Vicar's Vagaries

“Two of the Things I Do Best!”

After I dropped a shovel-full of dirt into the grave, I drove the shovel back into the pile of dirt for the next person. I had been saying goodbye to my father for a month now. But this act had a kind of finality to it that was missing before. All that was left of his physical presence was now in the ground, and we were covering his ashes with dirt. There weren't any more ceremonies, gatherings, obituaries, or sermons. This was the final farewell.

As I stepped back from that pile of dirt, I could almost hear my father say in his own cheerful voice, “Sleeping and eating—those are two of the things I do best!” Why would I be remembering those words now? Was this supposed to mean something?

Dad always said he was a great sleeper. Now, he would be resting up until resurrection day, whenever that may be. We often speak of those who have passed away as if they are sleeping. We say they have gone to their eternal resting place. Dad does not have

to work so hard at living now. He is at peace, and so am I.

But what about the other part? Why would he mention eating? I recalled what Bishop Dickson (of West Tennessee) said after his wife Charnell died. He practically ran to the altar rail after her death because he knew that when he received communion, he was at one with the woman he had loved for so many years. Dad was a regular church-goer, and he made sure we went every Sunday when I was growing up. Maybe Dad was telling me to meet him at the altar rail. That was a good message to receive, no matter how I got it. It gives me hope.

All of us know someone who has gone before, some friend or family member, some beloved person whom we would like to visit again. In the Communion of Saints, we will all gather together at Christ's heavenly banquet. In the meantime, we meet one another at the altar rail.

I will see you there on Sunday, you and those you love. Bring them in your heart. We will all be together with Christ in the consecrated bread and wine of the altar. And when we go to our final resting place, we will rest together in the Lord.

These are two of the things we do best.

* * * * *

I want to thank everyone who came to my father's funeral on February 11 at St. George's, Nashville. It felt really great to see my friends from Grace Church in Spring Hill. You made that long trek north to Nashville and gave up your Saturday afternoon to be there for my father's service. I know he would have loved knowing all of you, and he sure would have been at Grace if he could have. It took him about 4 years and a pandemic before he stopped asking what time services were at Grace, because he always wanted to go, even after he stopped waking up before 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Also, thank you for your notes, expressions of support, and prayers. You have helped me and my family make it through a tough time.

Faithfully,
Father Joe

How to Tame the Fox: Lenten Series, 2023

Four years after our last Lenten series, we will meet again on the Wednesday nights this Lent for prayer, dinner, and a time for thoughtful reflection. I will lead meditations on a special part of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's 1943 classic, *The Little Prince*. The title of the series is *How to Tame the Fox*. The book tells how the Little Prince travels to different planets searching for friends and understanding until he is approached by a fox that asks him to tame him. The fox then teaches the Little Prince how. The fox imparts wisdom that can aid us in our life of prayer as we seek a closer relationship with God and as he seeks a closer relationship with us.

We will consider on the different nights 1) Why Tame the Fox? 2) No Time for Taming, 3) Taming the Fox in Seven No-So-Easy Steps, 4) Thursdays Are for Dancing: The Meaning of Time and the Need for Order, and 5) Seeing Rightly with the Heart: The Fruit of the Spiritual Life. Participants may sign up in the parish hall to attend, but anyone may come without signing up.

We need to organize how we will share responsibility for meals and clean up. A simple soup will be sufficient, and no dessert is expected. Meals may be meatless. That's up to the chef. Each Wednesday we will begin with Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m. in the church. We will have dinner afterwards and then hear the meditation on the topic for the night. The purpose of these meditations is to help us recover the childlike attitude that Jesus said we need before we can enter the kingdom of God (Matthew 18:3).

Father Joe

Beginning 2023

*"Another year is dawning.
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee"*

This is the opening of a hymn by English hymn-writer Frances Ridley Havergal. As we begin a new

year, it is a good thing to look back on last year with gratefulness.

The restrictions of Covid have kept us from participating in many of the musical worship traditions that bless our hearts and minds. I am so thrilled that our choir has begun meeting again. We are now meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:00, and we sing during Communion every other Sunday. If you are interested in joining us, Lent is a great time to take up singing in the choir!

We were also able to sing Christmas carols leading into the Service of the Nativity of Our Lord, assisted by local musicians Jay and Jodi Marcum.

We are looking forward to more singing with joy in our hearts in the coming year.

Deanie Moore, Music Director

Altar Guild 2022

2022 was a good year for the Altar Guild. Even though we only have four members, every service was fully covered. Many thanks go to all our members but especially to Laurie McNutt who was always available and did so many extra jobs when she could. We will miss her.

There were several occasions when we had special services for a baptism or a funeral, and we were able to provide proper flowers and Altar set up for that. Easter and Advent went well with many contributions for the poinsettias and lilies. We thank everyone for that. Since we do not have a determined budget for our flowers, we certainly are grateful to those who contribute anytime. We will do special flowers and arrangements for any occasion and a contribution for that is welcome. Our ladies work very hard to make everything correct for each service.

We are fortunate to have Teri Mai as a new member for 2023. We welcome and thank her for being so willing to help out. Of course, we would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Linda Colmore. Altar Guild

Greeting Card Ministry

The birthday and anniversary card ministry of Grace is intended to share a sense of fellowship and belonging with our parishioners. Members receive a

greeting during their birthday month. Couples receive an anniversary card to celebrate their marriage. It is our hope that personal greetings bring each member a smile and the knowledge that they are being celebrated. During 2022 a total of 85 birthday cards and 20 anniversary cards were mailed. If you did not receive a greeting card, please be sure the church office has your information.

Carolyn Warnick

Daughters of The King

We continue to fulfill our vows of prayer-service-evangelism in many ways: prayer chain, visiting the sick, phone calls, altar guild, children's church, choir, sending birthday cards, supporting The Well, sending DOK prayer-grams, and more. We completed our book study of *The Way of Love*, a Practical Guide to Following Jesus, by Scott Gunn, with a foreword by Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry. We continue to serve gratefully and grow spiritually.

In 2022, we welcomed one new member, Teri Mai, into our Daughters of Grace Chapter. Teri took her vows in Franklin at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mary Magdalene Chapter. Teri attended the DOK Triennial in Baltimore as a Franklin representative in June 2022 .

Carolyn Warnick was installed as co-president of our chapter last fall and has been faithfully executing her duties. She is currently leading us in our new book study, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, by Tish Harrison Warren. Lynn Rieger continues as our vice president and is likewise active in our chapter and in service to Grace. Being co-president with Carolyn, I have attended the 2022 DOK Spring and Fall Assemblies in Nashville. I also attended several Board of Director or chapter president meetings in Nashville.

Laurie McNutt moved last month but will be in touch with us and attend future meetings via Zoom and maybe even in person occasionally. We are grateful for her dedicated service and look forward to continued sisterhood with Laurie.

Susannah Weber, who is a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Columbia, also attends our meetings regularly. For His Sake, Sheila Flynn

Newcomer Possibilities

From a perfect vantage point, somewhere towards the back of the nave of Grace Episcopal Church Spring Hill, TN, Sunday mornings, I have a very clear visual image of fresh faces and people coming to worship at Grace or just coming to admire the beauty and simplicity of this splendid old church. Warmly greeted by Father Joe, Mission Council members and church members, visitors are invited to coffee in Faith Hall and given Grace Church coffee mug when they leave. With the cooperation of our guests, information cards, and reception book information, I am able to send each new person a written note thanking them for coming to Grace and inviting them to attend again anytime.

Meeting newcomers is definitely a privilege, and I leave feeling honored to have met them. When it is appropriate, we invite newcomers to join us for the Ladies Luncheon, Fifth Sunday Buffet, and Creative Mondays. We offer additional information upon request. We offer regular inquirers classes as needed in preparation for baptism or confirmation. We also invite new people to transfer their membership when they are ready to do so.

Following a couple of years minimal contact at Grace because of the COVID pandemic, we all prayed for an increase of growth and support in our Grace membership. Our prayers were definitely answered with five new members between the end of 2021 and early 2022. We were very fortunate. Grace continues to welcome many newcomers throughout the year.

Collaborating with Father Joe, church members, and the newcomers is a privilege and a humbling experience for me, especially when we are able to observe new members attending regularly and becoming involved in their church. We are actively searching for someone to help with this ministry, so if you think you might also enjoy this opportunity, please reach out to me at proberts000@charter.net, 931-625-6069, or any Mission Council member.

Peggy Roberts, Newcomers

Be Creative on Mondays

In 2018 Creative Mondays began at Grace Episcopal Church. On the second and fourth Mondays of each

month women and men have gathered to paint, sew, draw, and enjoy the fellowship and friendship of their fellow artists. (Of course, Creative Mondays were often canceled during Covid.)

In 2022 new members of the church joined the activities this year: Peggy Baker and Larry Agrimonti.

Pat Mayo, long-time member of Grace and former art teacher, is the leader of the group. She welcomes us by preparing the tables for painting, but most of all she has suggestions and hints for all no matter their craft. Some artists are serious - others color, organize beads, or just participate in the conversation. Often people take the opportunity to walk around the room and study the works of their fellow creatives. Attendees include Diann Schneider, Carol Martinez, Stana and Robert Chapman, Peggy Baker, Peggy Roberts, and Deannie Moore. In summertime, Carol's granddaughters and some of their friends joined the group, and Pat especially enjoys working with the young people. Come be creative with us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Carol Martinez, Senior Warden

Inquirers Class

During the announcements at the October 30, 2022 service, Father Joe invited members of Grace Church to attend his Inquirers Class to begin the following week. The Inquirers Class was originally designed to prepare those wanting to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. But in his wisdom, Fr. Joe opened it up to any of us that wanted a refresher course. I thought about it for a couple of hours. Because one of my 2023 goals was to be better prepared to reach out to new members and to those searching for a church, I felt this class might provide me with the inspiration I needed to help satisfy this goal. More importantly, I knew that although I had been brought up in the Episcopal Church since birth, there were gaps in my knowledge that I was too embarrassed to ask about. Sometimes you just don't know what you don't know. That certainly made me a good candidate for a "refresher" class. By 2:30 that afternoon, I was texting Fr. Joe to expect me Tuesday morning, one of my better decisions of 2022.

On almost every Tuesday morning, up to eight of us gathered with Fr. Joe in Faith Hall. We use several tools, including the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer, *An Introduction to the Episcopal Church*, by

J. B. Bernardin, as well as Fr. Joe’s substantial course outline, and other handouts. We have covered the basics such as the history of the early church and the church’s doctrine and sacraments, all of which I found interesting. But early topics also included weightier topics: Who is Man, God, and Jesus?

Fr. Joe’s role is not just that of a lecturer, there only to provide information, although he does provide that service; but he is also a thought-provoker and discussion leader. To me, the most meaningful parts of our class were the discussions among our group. Some discussions were humorous while others were profoundly serious. We didn’t always agree, but it was good to hear everyone’s thoughts and feelings. After all, we can never learn anything from someone who always agrees with us.

Another of my favorite classes was one where we learned or re-learned how to say the Daily Office. To me, reading the Bible straight through from beginning to end always seemed rather daunting. Saying the Daily Office is a very disciplined way to read it in smaller chunks over a period of time and gain a stronger, more personal understanding of its meaning.

We are taking a break from the Inquirers Class while the Lenten Series is in session. But I am looking forward to starting up again after Easter. I hope that this becomes a regularly scheduled class and that others take the opportunity to join. Any time that we can learn more about God and become closer to him is time well spent.

Peace, Susan Austin

Treasury Report for December 2022

December brought Grace revenues of \$8,866.00, which fell short of its \$12,526.45 in expenses. Although the negative balance for the year might be disconcerting, it was much smaller than the previous year and no funds had to be pulled from savings to cover our operation. We have yet to recoup from the Diocese \$1,450.25 spent on organ maintenance lowering the overall balance for the year to -\$3,956.52. See below for a breakdown of funds. Detailed information on accounts is attached.

Finances for December 2022:

Pledged offerings:	\$3,831.00
Plate offerings:	\$2,020.00
Christmas offerings:	\$2,385.00
Flowers:	\$430.00
Special Offerings:	\$175.00

Total offerings: \$6,388.00

Facilities rental: \$125.00

Total revenue: \$8,813.00

Total expenses: 12,526.45

December net total: -\$3,660.45

Banking balances:

First Horizon checking account: \$7,172.57

First Horizon savings account: \$48,289.63

Savings Account Fund Breakdown:

Organ fund: \$23,500.00

Building fund: \$20,650.00

Undesignated fund: \$4,133.48

Interest earned: \$6.15

Total available funds, plus savings: \$55,462.20

David Thomas, Treasurer

Special Note: Due to confusion about the cost of Fr. Joe’s health insurance at the end of 2022, plus a mistake in the bill, Grace over-paid the Episcopal Church Medical Trust by over \$3,000, meaning that we essentially broke even in finances for the year when this discrepancy is accounted for. This is a noteworthy achievement for Grace. JND+

December Mission Council Minutes

December 14, 2022

Attendance: Fr. Joseph Davis, Diann Schneider, Sr. Warden; Susan Austin, Jr. Warden; David Thomas, Charles Cochran, Carol Martinez, and Will Pomeroy. Fr. Joe recognized a quorum and opened with prayer.

Scribe’s Report: – Chuck Warnick: Minutes for Nov. 2022 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: David Thomas sent the Nov. financial reports to the mission council members. Please see the specific reports for line-item analysis.

Summary:

Category	For the Month of November 2022	Year to Date as of 11/31/2022
Revenue:	\$ 9,430.00	\$ 105,212.39
Expenses:	11,548.61	101,332.51
Net:	-\$2,118.61	\$3,879.88

After discussion, the Treasurer’s reports were accepted.

The proposed Finance Committee members were named, as follows: David Thomas, Susan Austin, and John Harvey.

Quotes for cleaning service providers will be sought by Carol Martinez and presented to the Mission Council for consideration.

Stewardship - Carol Martinez: Susan Browning will be asked to provide a list of pledges in arrears for 2022 to Carol Martinez for follow-up.

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

- ❖ The Annual Meeting will be on Jan. 8, 2023, after the service. Ministry Reports must be turned in by Jan. 1, 2023. Email notices will be sent by Dec.18, 2022. Regular mail notices will be sent by Carol Martinez on or before Dec. 18, 2022.
- ❖ The Bishop’s annual visit will be Jan. 15, 2023.
- ❖ Christmas service will be held Dec. 24, 2022. Carols at 5:30 p.m., & the Eucharist at 6:00 pm.
- ❖ Inquirers Class will resume on Jan. 3, 2023.
- ❖ The Brightstone Program – Tammy Bolen received enthusiastic support from Grace for her truly amazing work.

Senior Warden’s Report - The Nominating Committee has the following persons recommended for the vacancies on the Mission Council: Robert Chapman for a one-year term as the remainder for Laurie’s vacancy; Bill Rieger and Peggy Roberts for three-year terms.

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

- ❖ Another dishwasher has been installed.
- ❖ Commode has been repaired.
- ❖ The flooring company is coming this Friday.
- ❖ Signs for the Annual Meeting will be posted by Dec. 18, 2022.

Liaison Reports:

- ❖ Children’s Ministry
- ❖ Children’s Church is going well.
- ❖ Communications
- ❖ I ♥ Spring Hill, Spring Hill Fresh, Facebook – Christmas Eve service notice.
- ❖ Outreach: Gifts for three families will be supplied by members of Grace Church. With no further business, Fr. Joe closed 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

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden
Bill Rieger, Junior Warden
David Thomas, Treasurer
Robert Chapman, Congregational Life
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach
Peggy Roberts, Communications
Will Pomeroy, Christian Ed. & Children’s Min.

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