

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: Peggy Roberts, Carol Martinez, and LaRue Schmelzer.

Services & Continuing Events

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| Sun. | 10 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10 AM | Children’s Church |
| Sun. | 10 AM | Facebook Live Service |
| Tues. & Fri. | 7:00 PM | AA Meeting |
| Wed. | 10:00 AM | Daughters of The King (2 nd & 4 th Wed.) |
| | Noon | Holy Eucharist |
| | 1:00 – 4 PM | Father Joe, Office Hrs. |
| Thur. | 9:00 AM | Crochet Club |
| Thur. | 9:00 AM | Men’s Coffee Clutch, Grecian Restaurant |

Newsletter Articles

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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.

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|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sept. 14 | | Holy Cross Day |
| Sept. 17 | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10:00 AM | Children’s Church |
| Sept. 20 | Noon | Holy Eucharist |
| | 1:00 – 4:00 | Office Hours, Fr. Joe |
| Sept. 21 | | St. Matthew Apostle & Evangelist |
| Sept. 21 | 6:00 PM | Mission Council Meeting |
| Sept. 24 | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10:00 AM | Children’s Church |
| Sept. 27 | Noon | Holy Eucharist |
| | 1:00 PM | Office Hours, Fr. Joe |
| Sept. 29 | | St. Michael & All Angels |
| Oct. 5 | Noon | Ladies Luncheon |
| | | Potluck at Grace |
| Oct. 8 | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10:00 AM | Children’s Church |
| Oct. 8 | After Mass | Blessing of the Animals |
| Oct. 15 | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10:00 AM | Children’s Church |
| Oct. 18 | | St. Luke The Evangelist |
| Oct. 22 | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10:00 AM | Children’s Church |
| Oct. 23 | | St. James of Jerusalem |
| Oct. 28 | | Sts. Simon & Jude |
| Oct. 29 | 10:00 AM | Holy Eucharist |
| | 10:00 AM | Children’s Church |
| Oct. 29 | Noon | Fifth Sunday Brunch |



Vicar's Vagaries

September 2023

The Book of Common Prayer: A Matter of Life and Death

The rubric on p. 462 of the *Book of Common Prayer* says, “*When a person is near death, the Minister of the Congregation should be notified, in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided.*”

Please turn to that page and see what is there. Unless you have experienced praying this litany and these prayers with a dying loved one, you may not even know this section of our prayer book exists.

The first petition reads, “Almighty God, look on this your servant, lying in great weakness, and comfort *him* with the promise of life everlasting, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*” This is a powerful start to a strong collection of prayers. Every Episcopalian should know where to find these pages, because you never know when you might be called upon to lead these prayers.

Yes, the rubric says to call your priest, and I hope you will. Praying this service is one of the most profound experiences of my life, and I will be there for you in your time of need if at all possible. But even if a priest cannot be reached, any layman can use the *Book of Common Prayer* and lead these prayers.

There is a litany made up of verses and responses said by the leader and the participants, who would be family members, loved ones, and possibly even medical personnel or caregivers. Being involved in these prayers means you are helping a loved one pass from life to death instead of sitting by anxiously, feeling helpless, while you watch this dear person’s life slip away.

You pray the Lord’s Prayer together. It is always an appropriate prayer under just about any circumstances, but it takes on new meaning when you are praying it for or with someone who is dying. When the time comes, the leader says a prayer of Commendation at the Time of Death (p. 464).

*Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world;
In the Name of God the Father Almighty
who created you;
In the Name of Jesus Christ who redeemed you;
In the Name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you.
May your rest be this day in peace,
and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God.*

A final commendatory prayer completes the service.

Please look this service up in your prayer book and read through the whole thing. Be ready to use it in case of emergency, and call your priest when a loved one seems to be near the point of death.

Every Advent, the Church teaches us that we need to be prepared for death, for none of us will live forever in this world. So we should make out our wills and choose an executor for our estate, and we should live our days in the understanding that each day is a precious gift from God. We should also be prepared to help a loved one at the time of death by leading this service if no priest is available.

I promise you that if you take me seriously as you read this article (no matter how old you are right now), and you go and find pages 462-465 in your prayer book, and read them prayerfully, you will remember that you did this when it is time to commend a loved one to God for eternity, and perhaps again in the last moments before your own death.

Father Joe

Children’s Church is Back!!

After a hiatus for the past month of August, the kids of Grace will be gathering once again to grow closer to Christ in Children’s Church. While during June and July, we took a little side-trip to the Old Testament: we will now be returning to the Lectionary and talk about the gospel readings and the life of Jesus.

We encourage everyone to reach out to our great kids at Grace and ask about what they are doing and learning about in Children’s Church. I think that Susan Austin, James Dallas, and Nicole Poirier will agree with me that we frequently feel that the kids often teach us more about God than we teach them.
Lynn Reiger, CC Lead Teacher

**Flowers & Plants Flourish
Inside & Outside at Grace**

The interior of Grace Episcopal Church is beautiful and has been for 145 years. The newest item is a stained glass window that the Isbells donated in memory of their son Chad Bodine in Nov. 2022. One of the many items that dates from when the church was consecrated in 1878 is the altar rail that was carved by Rev. Johannes Oertelhas.

As we gaze at the church every Sunday or Wednesday or whatever day we come to Grace, one thing changes - the flowers and plants on the altar. Sometimes there are green plants, other times there are beautiful flowers but there is always something fresh that brings another of God's creations into our place of worship.

We should thank the members of the altar guild - which is also known as the flower guild - for making certain that the bouquets are fresh, and the plants are strong. The group is headed by Linda Colmore and includes Michele Gibson-O'Grady, Mimi DeMoss, and Teri Mai. Grace has two flower traditions: lilies at Easter and poinsettias for Christmas.

Also, a special thanks goes out to the 12 households who have made contributions to the flower fund during 2023. If you want to help make the church beautiful, donations to the flower fund are welcome. Please designate "flower fund" on your check. You may also surprise someone on their birthday, anniversary or to the glory of God with flowers at Grace. The beautiful floral bouquets cost between \$75 and \$100.

Grace also has a beautiful outdoor garden thanks to the efforts of Sheila Flynn and Susan Austin. Take time each Sunday before entering the building to admire the vinca, roses, azaleas, geraniums, and more.

Lots of Grace is blooming and beautiful.
Carol Martinez, Senior Warden

Pets to be Blessed on Oct. 8

On Sunday, Oct. 8, one hour after the 10 am service concludes, Blessing of the Animals will take place at Grace Episcopal Church. (Why one hour later? Everyone has to go home and get their dogs, cats, birds, and other animals since only service animals are welcome at the service.)

Oct. 4 is St. Francis of Assisi Day. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment. The Italian Saint was born in 1181. He founded the Catholic order of Franciscans. He is best known for his care for animals and nature, the poor and underprivileged. He preached that all creatures are brothers and sisters under God.

My dog, Bella, has been at most Animals Blessings at Grace since we moved to Spring Hill 10 years ago. Frida, my other rescue dog, has only been once. Some years Bella has been the only dog at the service. One year 10 four legged friends joined her. Father Joe is pet friendly, so he's happy to bless as many animals as attend.

The short service will take place in Grace's front yard. There's plenty of room for all the animals. If your animal is shy or not friendly, they don't have to interact with the other attendees. In the past, some people have brought photos of their animals to be blessed.

You might want to encourage Peggy and Dick Roberts to bring their bird Scooter to the event.

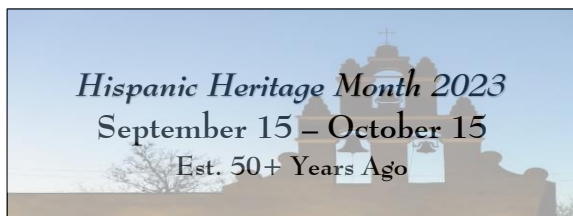
I will provide bird, cat, and dog treats for the participants to take home. We don't want a food fight. Also, this year we will mention the many area animal rescues and bless their work during the service.

The prayer of St. Francis is:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me show love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

And one of his famous quotes is: *"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden



Emotions Anonymous

In February 2016, an acquaintance of mine was struggling and began seeing a therapist who recommended going to Emotions Anonymous.

Emotions Anonymous was started in July 1971 in St. Paul, MN by a group of people who had previously been members of another twelve-step program. EA is based on the 12 step recovery program, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Anyone experiencing emotional difficulties who is willing to try this recovery program is welcome. Most attendees gain knowledge and support from others experiencing the same or similar underlying emotions. Though the symptoms or situations may be different, the weekly support offered reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles.

EA is a spiritual program but not religious. Your personal “Higher Power” can be whatever you choose, outside of ourselves.

With the help of the Twelve Steps, you can find a new way of life. Most find recovery and you can, too.

EA meets in this area thanks to the organizational efforts of Peggy Baker, Grace member:

- Greater First Baptist Church, 512 5th Ave N Lewisburg, TN, Monday evenings, 5:30 PM.
 - Cumberland Heights, 220 Town Center Parkway, Spring Hill, TN, Wednesday evenings, 5:30 PM.
- Peggy Baker, Congregational Life Committee

Why Visitors Do Not Return

Reaching out to newcomers at Grace Episcopal, I have wondered if we do a respectable job projecting our beliefs, our religion, and our church family to visitors who come to our church. This *Leading Ideas* article by F. Douglas Powe, Forward Movement, Facebook, gave me the belief that we are doing some things well. But it always helps to be aware of what our visitors are searching for and what they need.

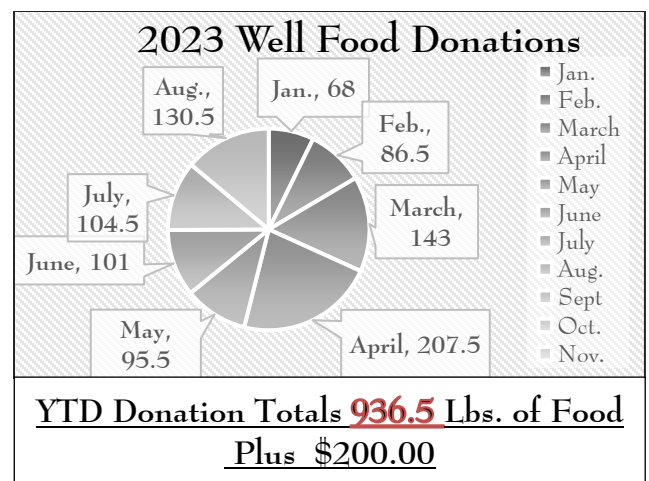
1. Are the members welcoming each other warmly, but guests who are avoided may still leave feeling like an outsider?
2. Uninspiring worship and poor participation in the ceremony and music can be very clearly felt, instead of sensing the warm investment in the experience from all present in worship.

3. “Vulture Syndrome?” Some churches are looking for extra involvement of hands and hearts and that prevailing feeling is given to guests as they leave. The easy warm approach is best shown initially.
4. Serious visitors **are** actually looking for ways to be involved with the church they have decided on. Sunday worship and Children’s Church **are not** solely enough. Community Outreach is a terrific way to engage these active people.

In my individual experiences at Grace, I am confident new members want to contribute and feel their efforts are impactful.

These guidelines can help us all relate more successfully to visitors, and I will try to be more aware of these “good church vibes” when meeting the new people entering through the Grace red door.

Peggy Roberts, New Member Outreach, with credit to F. Douglas Powe, *Leading Ideas*



Grace Church continues to support The Well and the many people in crisis at this time in the community. “A generous person will be blessed for they share their bread with the poor,” Prov. 22-9. Thank you, Charles Cochran, for helping with our community outreach work.

Spiritual Warfare

Is the devil real? Jesus thought so.

Is he active today? C.S. Lewis certainly thought so. See *The Screwtape Letters*.

Is he dangerous? Only to those who deny his reality or become mesmerized by him.

How do we counter the attacks of the devil? Say, "Get behind me, Satan! In the name of Jesus, I cast you out." Call upon Jesus to come to your aid, and he will be at your side. Do not fear the devil. Trust in the one who was raised from the dead, breaking the power of sin and death over mankind.

Robert Chapman and Father Joe

Life After 50

Yarn is often the topic of conversation every Thursday morning in Faith Hall. That's when the Life After 50 group meets to knit and crochet.

12 ladies come with knitting needles, crochet hooks and all sorts of yarn to create. Some have been doing this craft for many years. Ruthie estimates that she has crocheted for 70 years, and Diann Schneider has been knitting for 60 years. There are some who are newer knitters. Patti has been knitting for three years and is presently making patches that she will use to make a blanket. Members of the group are happy to offer instructions to those who want to learn to crochet or knit.

The group has been meeting for 15 years. At a recent meeting, Lilia modeled a beautiful, crocheted top that she made. (There's a photo of her wearing her creation on the Grace Facebook page.) Pat is working on an American Flag blanket - it's large and quite outstanding. I will post a photograph of it on the Grace Facebook page when it is complete.

Diann says that a very important question at every meeting is, "Where should we go for lunch?" The ladies usually continue socializing at lunch at the conclusion of the meeting. If you or a friend of yours would like to join this group, please reach out to Diann Schneider.

Recently, the group presented Grace with \$200 to thank the church for hosting their meetings. Thanks so much to Life After 50 Group for their contributions to Grace.

Carol Martinez, Sr Warden

Meditate on These Things

By Stana Chapman

Ask and you shall receive,

Seek and you find,

Knock and the door shall be opened to you,

For everyone who Asks Receives.

*The July Treasurers Report & Mission Council Minutes will be included in the October Issue of Grace Notes. The Mission Council did not meet in August.

Faces of Grace

Directory - News

Please welcome NEW Members:

Kate & Bennie Bradberry

and

Elizabeth(8) & Christian(4) Bradberry

Elizabeth & Brian Klammer

*** Please Note ***

Updates :

1. Charles Cochran: Emergency Contact, Carrie Gray, dghr., 903-277-2937.
2. Jane Longhurst: Contact John Rainey, son, phone, 865-254-3746, mail, 3675 Rutherford Dr., Spring Hill.
3. Skylar Turner: 711 Daylight Dr., Maryville, TN 37801, Skyfry47@gmail.com.
4. Margaret "Missy" Daily: 605 Brookside Dr., Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474.
Please keep us updated of any changes in address, phone number, and email address.

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 Education & Children's
Ministry

You may contribute to Grace Church at this link or
by using the QR code below.

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

