

Grace Episcopal
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Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 11
November 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: 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.	3:00 PM	Inquirer's Class
Tues. & Fri.	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
Wed.	10:00 AM	Daughters of The King (2 nd & 4 th Wed.)
	Noon	Holy Eucharist
	11:30-3:00 PM	Fr. Joe, Office Hrs.
Thur.	9:00 AM	Crochet Club
Thur.	9:00 AM	Men's Breakfast Grecian Restaurant

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Events & Dates of Note

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.

Nov. 18	9:00 AM	Fall Workday
Nov. 19	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM	Children's Church
Nov. 23	Noon	Thanksgiving
Nov. 26	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM	Children's Church
Nov. 30		St. Andrew The Apostle
Dec. 7	9:00 AM	Ladies' Advent Breakfast
		Grecian Restaurant
Dec. 10		Lessons & Carols,
		Fr. Herrmann
Dec. 9	5:00 PM	Christmas Parade
Dec. 21		St. Thomas The Apostle
Dec. 24	10:00 AM	IV Advent
Dec. 24	5:30 PM	Christmas Carols,
Dec. 24	6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25		Christmas Day, No Service
Dec. 28		The Holy Innocents
Jan. 7	10:00 AM	Baptism of Christ
	10:00 AM	Children's Church
Jan. 14	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting



Vicar's Vagaries

Advent Transitions

Nature is making its yearly transition from fall to winter. Similarly, the church is ending one year and beginning another. Within 11 days, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day (11/23/23), Christ the King Sunday (11/26/23), and the First Sunday of Advent (December 3). We end the church year with Christ the

King Sunday, and the new year begins with the beginning of Advent. The change can happen so fast that it makes your head swim. But the changes in the church year help us move gracefully through God's gift of time in this world. The feasts and seasons of the church year help us experience the richness of the meaning of Christian life as the months and years pass.

In our worship, we are always remembering how God has acted to save us and the world in the past; but in Advent, our liturgy orients us towards the future. We worship a God who came and is coming. He is with us now, but he is also coming at the end of time. We look forward to his coming, and we need to be ready at all times.

The Church has traditionally derived several lessons from the promise of Jesus to come again. When he comes, the present world will be transformed and filled with his glory. We know we are to be ready, like the wise maidens who had oil for their lamps; but what does that look like in practical terms? Below, some suggestions follow which may help us be ready here and now for the transition that will come to our world when Christ comes again, when we die, and when we face judgment.

Advent is a good time to tie up loose ends. Maybe we need to catch up on our giving to the church and to pledge for the next year. If we don't have a will, this is a good time to schedule a meeting with a lawyer to make a will. Sooner or later, we need to plan our funeral. Advent is a great time for that. To read the burial liturgy of the Episcopal Church, see pp. 468-507 in the Book of Common Prayer. It would be a great gift to your loved ones if you would talk to them about what lessons and hymns you want at your funeral. Everything you do in advance will help them a great deal.

For your spiritual life, you can do the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer as found in your Book of Common Prayer. The lessons are found in the Daily Office Lectionary, BCP pp. 934-1001. You may also want to read about the saints we commemorate during Advent. In particular, St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (December 6), St. Lucy (December 13), and St. Thomas the Apostle (December 21) are honored during Advent. Reading

the lessons for the Sundays in Advent is always a good way to enter more deeply the Sunday worship experience. You can find them in the Eucharistic Lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer and on the Ashby Episcopal Church calendar, on the back page of the month of December. (Please pick up your Ashby calendar at the church, if you haven't already!)

During this season so full of the distractions of the world, it is good to resolve to attend church every Sunday. Come on Wednesday if you can (though there will not be a service on December 6 this year). If you have house guests, maybe they would like to come to church with you. And whether you are at home or visiting another place, try to make sure you can be present in church for Christmas (literally, the Christ Mass). Our Christmas celebration at Grace is on Christmas Eve.

A Celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols will be held at 10:00 a.m. on December 10 at Grace Church. This remarkable gathering of biblical readings and hymn singing provides a comprehensive experience of the meaning of our Lord's coming to be born as one of us.

This year, the calendar has given us a challenge and a blessing. **The Fourth Sunday of Advent is December 24. There will be a 10:00 a.m. celebration of the Eucharist** that Sunday for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Let me be perfectly clear. The morning service on December 24 is for IV Advent, not Christmas. **That evening, our Christmas Eve service begins at 6:00 p.m., with carol singing starting at 5:30.** This will be our only Christmas service, our celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. There will be no service at Grace on Christmas Day. For the full experience of Advent and Christmas, it is best to attend the IV Advent service at 10:00 a.m. and to come back for the Christmas Eve service, with carols, starting at 5:30 p.m. It is strange to have so much happening in 24 hours, but strange things happen when babies are born and when our Lord comes in glory. I hope you will experience the fullness of this calendar coincidence as a good and joyful thing.

I wish all of us a rich experience of Christ and our community in him this Advent so we may all more fully enjoy the glory of Christmas.

Schedule for end of December and for January

The church will be on holiday on December 25 and 26. We will have a Wednesday noon celebration of the Eucharist on December 27 for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, the author of John's Gospel. On December 31, there will not be a fifth Sunday brunch.

Annual Meeting on January 14

On January 14, we will hold our annual meeting after the 10:00 AM celebration of the Eucharist. The meeting will be in the church. At this meeting, we will elect new members of the mission council and hear reports from the vicar, the senior warden, the treasurer, and other ministry leaders at Grace.

This is a very good time to learn what has been going on for the past year and to hear of plans for the immediate future. All confirmed members in good standing of 16 years or older are eligible to vote, but you may come whether you are voting or not.

Diocesan Convention January 19-20

The diocesan convention is at St. Paul's Church in Murfreesboro this year on January 19-20. Our delegates are Jessica Farmer and Peggy Roberts. We are still looking for two alternates, so let me know if you are a confirmed member of the church and would like to be an alternate. At the convention, it is particularly good to be with people from our other congregations and to hear the bishop's address on Saturday morning.

Faithfully, Father Joseph N. Davis, Vicar



Spring Hill Christmas Parade



It's that time again for the Spring Hill Christmas Parade!! The parade will be held on Saturday, December 9 at 5 PM. The community of Spring Hill really shows up for this festive event and the parade route will be passing right in front of Grace with marching bands, dancing troupes, and many floats.

As we have done for the past several years, we will be welcoming parade onlookers inside our beautiful church to enjoy a warm place to sip on hot cocoa, hot apple cider, and cookies to decorate. We will also continue with the tradition of having crafts for the kids. It provides a great outreach opportunity for

Grace to get to know those in our community and have them get to know our friendly and welcoming congregation.

The roads leading to the Main St. parade route will start closing around 4 PM, so it's a good idea to get to the church early to make sure you can park close by. I would suggest getting to the church no later than 3:30 PM because the traffic near the parade route gets quite heavy. While we wait for the parade to start, not only will we be welcoming the parade onlookers in the church, we will also be giving the church some final decorative touches.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Faith Hall where you can volunteer to bake sugar or gingerbread cookies (using a mix is just fine), bring a gallon of milk or two, as well as apple cider. And we will need volunteers to help decorate, invite visitors into the church, and help with the crafts for the kids.

So, come enjoy what will surely be a festive time! Bring your friends and family.... the more, the merrier!!

Lynn Rieger, Outreach Elf

Episcopal Hymns from Missionaries' Work among Native Americans and First Nations Peoples

Text: "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" by Jean de Brébeuf, trans. by Jesse Edgar Middleton

Tune: *Une jeune pucelle*, French folk melody, 16th cent. (Hymn 114)

Something that makes Episcopal hymnody particularly special is the wide variety of languages, nationalities, and traditions that have come together in our hymnal. Some Episcopal hymns come from Christian missionaries' lives and labors among Native American and First Nations peoples.

"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" was written in the Huron language by Jean de Brébeuf, S. J. (1593-1649), a French Jesuit missionary to Quebec. In writing this carol he used imagery meaningful to those to whom he ministered. Instead of being born in a stable, Jesus was born in a lodge of broken bark; instead of swaddling clothes, Jesus was wrapped in rabbit skin; instead of the kings and their costly gifts, chiefs came to pay homage, bringing fox and beaver pelts. The final verse is as beautiful as any carols we know:

*O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true:
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.
Jesus your King is born, in excelsis gloria.*

The text was translated by Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872-1960), a Canadian who was trained to be a teacher, but decided to go into journalism in 1895. He was *The Montreal Herald's* correspondent in Quebec when Ernest Myrand published *Noels Anciens de la Nouvelle-France* in 1899. It contained a French version of the carol written in 1691. Middleton wrote a pamphlet titled "The First Canadian Carol" in 1927, with his translation of "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime."

There are other hymns in our hymnal with tunes from the musical traditions of the Dakota, Ojibway, and Creeks. I hope you will look up "Many and Great, O God, are Thy Works" by Joseph R. Renville, trans. by Philip Frazier. (Hymn 385) The tune is a Native American song called *Dakota Indian Chant (Lacquiparle, French for "Speaking Lake.")* Deanie Moore, Music Director

Grace Members Saving Lives

"Save one life, you're a hero. Save a hundred lives, you are a _____." How many of you are reading this quote and can easily complete this sentence? Grace Episcopal Church continues to be gifted with healthcare workers, including a surprising number of nurses who have worked or continue to work in our surrounding communities saving hundreds of lives. Becoming more aware of these caring souls in our very midst is a tribute to their work and a benefit to each of us. Enjoy this first story!

In 2015 I graduated from Tennessee College of Applied Technology and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. I began my career working in a small three-room Urgent Care Clinic in Lewisburg, TN. I have also worked for Veterans Affairs and currently work at Williamson Medical Center's Primary Care office.

I did not get into nursing by divine calling or even really a desire to take care of others. I was a

single mom looking for a stable career. I did become a good nurse though by relying on my faith throughout my days taking care of others. I once heard a lecture by Thomas Merton who said it is not always what God calls us to do but finding God in what we do. Nursing is a prime way to find God. We learn in church that Jesus healed the sick. As nurses, no matter our degree or department of nursing, take part in healing. Having a relationship with God and being an active member of the Episcopal Church have played a huge role in my career. I find God every day in what I do. Whether it is comforting a patient or family member, or showing compassion to those who are in suffering. I am no hero I am merely a child of God trying to conduct our primary command to love one another.

Jessica Farmer, LPN

THANKSGIVING OBSERVANCE

*Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes.
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears.
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean.
Count your kind deeds instead of your means.
Count your health instead of your wealth.
Count on God instead of yourself.* Author Unknown

Happy Thanksgiving, Church Family,

Our friendship and fellowship is based on our mutual love of God. As such, you will be part of my thanksgiving gratitude list.

This Thanksgiving I'm starting a new Thanksgiving observance before my family arrives.

I plan to:

Sit quietly with God and meditate for 20 minutes.

Do a gratitude list centered on the five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch and those for whom I'm grateful.

Reading scripture plus reading psalms of thanksgiving, (Ps. 100:1-5, 7:17, 107:1,

69:30, 103:2, 106:1, 9:1, or whichever psalm is your favorite)

Playing my favorite thanksgiving hymns. (“How Great Thou Art,” “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” “All Creatures of Our God and King,” “Now Thank We All Our God,” and “For the Beauty of the Earth.”)

I will also write a place card for my children and “bonus” children expressing my thankfulness for them in my life. In the center of my table will be my Thank You note to my God expressing my love, commitment and prayer that He remains the center of my life as I journey.

However you choose to celebrate Thanksgiving, please enjoy!

In God’s love, Sheila Flynn

Bountiful Donors to The Well

Grace Episcopal members “blew the doors off” The Well’s pantry answering their recent appeal for cereal, canned foods, and hygiene items. Charles Cochran, Outreach Liaison, delivered 214 lbs. for Grace in October. YTD Grace members have spent time shopping and contributed 1,230.5 lbs. of staples and \$200 to the families in our area that are in need.

Grace also hopes to receive the Christmas lists and shopping for 4 families served by The Well during this holiday season.

DOK continues collecting plastic bottle tops for community service projects that construct park benches from these tops.

“A generous person will be blessed for they share their bread with the poor.” Prov. 22-9.



Guest’s Gratitude for Grace Worship

Driving by I have always wanted to attend, but we usually would drive home (to PA) on Sundays. This is a lovely church, and I am happy to visit on this special day with a baptism. I am visiting the area now because my sister-in-law passed away on October 27.

Susie Almon-Matanges

(Manie Baskar was baptized during that service.)

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

Will Pomeroy, Christian Education & Children’s
Ministry

Peggy Roberts, Communications

Charles Cochran, Community Outreach

Robert Chapman, Congregational Life

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

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

