

Grace Episcopal Church
 5291 N. Main St.
 Spring Hill, TN 37174
 931-486-3223
 Office@grace4sh.org

Grace Notes

Volume VI, Issue 2
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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. | No inquirer's class until April 9 | |
| Tues. & Fri. | 7:00 PM | AA Meeting |
| Wed. | 10:00 AM | Daughters of The King (2 nd & 4 th Wed.) |
| Wed. | Noon | Holy Eucharist |
| | 11:30 – 3:00 PM | Father Joe, Office Hrs. |
| Wed. | 5:30 PM | Lenten Series & Dinner (Feb. 21, Wed., - Mar. 20, Wed.) |
| Thur. | 9:00 AM | Crochet Club |
| Thur. | 9:00 AM | Men's Breakfast, Grecian Restaurant |

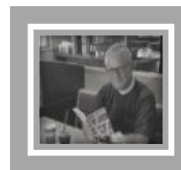
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Events and Dates of Notes

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. 10 | 9:30 AM | Diocesan Convention |
| Feb. 13 | 6:00 PM | Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper |
| Feb. 14 | Noon & 6:00 PM | Ash Wednesday |
| Feb. 18 | | First Sunday in Lent |
| Feb. 20 | 6:00 PM | Mission Council Meeting |
| Feb. 21 | 5:30 PM | Lenten Series & Dinner (Feb. 21-Mar. 20) |
| Feb. 24 | 9:00 AM-2:00 | MCMRM, Jody Howard St. Matthias The Apostle |
| Mar. 10 | | Fourth Sunday In Lent St. Joseph |
| Mar. 19 | | |
| Mar. 24 | 10:00 Am | Palm Sunday |
| Mar. 27 | | No Wednesday Noon Service |
| March 28 | | Maundy Thursday, 6:00 p.m. |
| March 29 | | 3:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy |
| Mar. 31 | 10:00 AM | Easter Sunday |



Vicar's Vagaries

How Services Change During Lent

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, which is February 14 this year. We will have services at noon and 6:00 p.m., with music, the litany of penitence and imposition of ashes, and the Holy Eucharist at both services. It is always a deeply moving experience to place the ashes on the heads of church members and say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is also a profound experience to

receive those ashes and hear those words said to you and to those you love who are beside you.

Lent is a season of penitence and preparation for Easter. The color is purple. We put away the “Gloria” and the Alleluias and the “Pascha Nostrum” (Christ our Passover), and say the “Lord, Have Mercy” and the “Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)” We fast during Lent, doing without something we will miss, such as desserts or large meals, and we take on some kind of spiritual discipline or work of mercy.

I wonder if you would like some suggestions of ways you might enrich your season of Lent and prepare well for Easter. Here are just a few suggestions. You could pick one or two, if you wanted, but please don’t do too much. Some people need to do less. It is better to take on a small rule you can follow than set yourself an ambitious rule you won’t follow.

1. Write a journal. You might even write your prayers down as if they were letters to God. No one has to see your private journal.
2. Bring an item of food for The Well each Sunday in Lent.
3. Attend church every Sunday in Lent. Come to the Wednesday night Lenten program.
4. Attend church on Wednesdays at noon and pray for the healing of someone who needs your prayers.
5. Check up on a friend or relative who might appreciate a call. Even if you don’t go anywhere, you can brighten the lives of others by calling them.
6. Read a book of the Bible slowly and meditate on what strikes you. Or you could read one of the lessons in the Daily Office Lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer each day.
7. Make a list of things you are thankful for each week. Go over the list Sunday at church before we celebrate the Eucharist (the Great Thanksgiving).
8. Take advantage of the opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). You may ask me for help if you need help with your self-examination and confession.
9. Either begin or recommit yourself to keeping a daily time to be quiet and in prayer. Even

ten minutes would make a huge difference in your day.

10. Do without something you often buy yourself, and give away the money as alms for the poor.
11. Cut out snacks and desserts. Eat meat at only one meal a day.

These are just some ideas that might help you develop a Lenten rule this year. Whatever you do, don’t beat yourself up if you slip and don’t go by your rule perfectly. Instead of feeling guilty, give thanks that you know how weak your resolution is, get back on your spiritual feet, and keep going with your rule, even if you find it annoying. *Especially* when you find it annoying.

I do hope you have a good Lent. Your celebration of Easter will be more joyful if you work at your Lenten rule for five weeks.

With blessings and prayers for a holy Lent,
Rev. Father Joseph N. Davis

Lenten Program

Last fall, I finally read a book I have been meaning to read for a long time; and now I wish I had read it years ago. But last fall was the right time. The book is N. T. Wright’s *Surprised by Hope*.

The title is a word-play on the title of C. S. Lewis’s own book, *Surprised by Joy*, which is Lewis’s autobiography. Wright is one of the greatest living New Testament scholars, and he is also a very accessible apologist for the Christian Faith, like Lewis. In this book, Wright clarifies the New Testament’s teaching on the resurrection of Jesus, the resurrection of the faithful, death, paradise, heaven, the second coming, purgatory, and even “the rapture.” Wright’s book is full of references to world events of the day when he wrote and various books and movies. He even has a sense of humor.

Please get your own copy of the book, but ask for help if you need it. I bought myself a used copy in good condition from Amazon.com for about \$15.00. A paperback edition is available. People are invited to come whether or not they read the book. James Dallas has found some videos of N. T. Wright speaking about the book in 15 minute sessions. We will see if we can use these videos to kick off each session.

We will meet on Wednesdays from February 21 through March 20. Let's start with Evening Prayer at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:00, and our class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Charles Cochran has volunteered to bring the first dinner. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board so we will know how many to expect for dinner and the class. People may volunteer to provide dinner when we gather for the first time on February 21, or they may sign up in advance.

Clergy Silent Retreat:

From Monday, February 5 through Thursday, February 8, I was at St. Mary's Retreat and Conference Center at Sewanee attending the silent retreat for our diocesan clergy. There was no noon Eucharist that Wednesday.

Inquirers Class on Break:

The inquirers class is on break until April 9. I am hoping people who attended that class will be able to come to the Wednesday night Lenten program.
Fr. Joe Davis

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



Text: Isaac Watts

Tune: ROCKINGHAM, by Edward Miller

When I survey the wondrous cross
where the young Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the cross of Christ, my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns
compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) has been referred to as the Father of English Hymnody. At the time of his birth the music which was sung in protestant churches was almost entirely metrical psalms. The belief was that singing only the words set down by God in the Bible was worthwhile.

This story is more legend than truth, but it is said that as a young man Watts complained to his father, who was the pastor of their church, about the deplorable music that was sung during the service that morning. The Senior Watts rebuked his son with "I'd like to see you write something better!" Young Isaac immediately did so, and the new hymn was enthusiastically received at the evening service!

We are still singing the hymns of Isaac Watts. The Hymnal 1982 has 17 of his works, which include "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come," "My God, Thy Table Now is Spread (stanza four)," "Before the Lord's Eternal Throne," "I Sing the Almighty Power of God," "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun," "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need," and "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

When written, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" was intended as a Communion hymn. Because of the focus on the cross, it is often used during the time of Lent. It is said to be based on Galatians 6:14 "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Watts begins the hymn with contemplation of the cross, and how all our worldly achievements and possessions pale in comparison. Next, he shows that Christ went to the cross because of his love for us. The last verse shows that the only response to his love is our complete devotion.

As we sing this hymn of love and awe, may we pray for God to enable us each day to live our lives wholly for him.

Deanie Moore, Music Director



New Members of Grace

**Robert (Bob) & Kathleen (Kate) Klunk,
accompanied by “Linus.”**

W E L C O M E

Grace Historic Tour

On Thursday January 25 Grace hosted a church tour in conjunction with the Spring Hill Library and the Spring Hill Historic Commission. Alicia Fitts delivered the presentation and did a great job sharing the history of the church with the community. It was wonderful to have a church full of new faces to Grace and to share our story. There was a lively Q&A session and something new for everyone to learn. In addition to the history of Grace, Alicia spoke about the history of the Episcopal Church in Maury County. The Historic Commission has produced a brochure documenting eight Episcopal churches in Maury County. The brochure is in the Narthex at Grace and is a must read. The Spring Hill Library and the Historic Commission hope to continue this series, with the next stop at the First Presbyterian Church of Spring Hill. Check with the library for updates.

Bill Rieger, Junior Warden



Diocesan Anti-

The TN Dioceses

Racism Training

is offering this class

Tuesday, Feb. 20, Diocesan House, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. For reservations please call 615-251-3322, or email sbeld@edtn.org by Feb. 14. This training is required for all clergy, senior wardens, and standing committee members. All lay people in the Diocese are welcome.

This is the second year the Diocese has offered this valuable training. Some Grace Mission Council members did attend in 2023.

Maury County Native Was An African American Culinary Pioneer

I recently spoke with our Maury County Historian, Jo Ann McClellan. Ms. McClellan founded the Maury County African American Heritage Society in 2012. She believes it is important that we memorialize the accomplishments of Maury County residents in a way that provides a well-rounded look at life in the past, including not just tragedies but also triumphs. In our conversation we started talking a bit about a notable, if still somewhat-obscure, Maury County native named Rufus Estes.

Rufus Estes was born a slave in 1857, near Columbia. The Slave Schedule of the 1860 Census for Maury County, District 9 (the area near Columbia) corroborates what Mr. Estes later wrote of himself: “I was born in Murray [sic] County, Tennessee, in 1857, a slave. I was given the name of my master, D. J. Estes, who owned my mother's family, consisting of seven boys and two girls, I am the youngest of the family.”

Mr. Estes wrote that, during the Civil War, he did hard work as an enslaved farm boy. After the War, his family was freed, and his mother moved them to Nashville. He briefly attended school but continued to work odd farm jobs to help support his struggling family.

At the age of 16, Rufus Estes left the farm for good and was hired as a cook's assistant at Hemphill's restaurant (according to an 1871 business directory, this establishment was on Church Street). Journalist Hadley Meares of LAist.com, citing food historian David Shields, states that Hemphill's was the premiere, European-style eatery in Nashville. Rufus Estes continued to work there for five years before moving to Chicago in 1881, where he was employed as a cook.

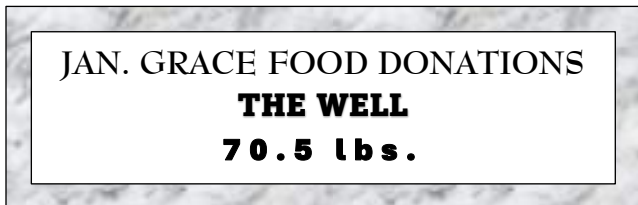
Two years later, Estes was hired as a chef by the Pullman railroad car company. Pullman's sleeper and dining cars were then like magnificent hotels on wheels; they were the preferred mode of transport for the “robber barons.” Mr. Estes became one of the premier chefs for Pullman's elite clientele, serving Presidents Cleveland and Harrison, and CEOs such as Andrew Carnegie and J.P. Morgan. During the 1894 Pullman Strike, Mr. Estes also served aboard ship as a personal chef on a steamer that visited Japan. He left the railroads at the end of the 19 century and

continued to work as a chef in Chicago, and later, Los Angeles, until shortly before his death in 1939.

In 1911, a former employer persuaded Mr. Estes to write down his recipes; these (and his autobiographical notes) were published in his book *Good Things to Eat, as Suggested by Rufus*. This book is one of the first (arguably, the first) cookbook written by an African American. Though forgotten for decades, it has been rediscovered and reprinted in recent years, gaining attention from local writers (such as Adam Southern) as well as culinary experts and bloggers.

The 1878 Beers Map of Maury County suggests that the farm where Rufus Estes was born was located on what is today the former Monsanto property west of Columbia, the proposed site for an incinerator and “mega-dump.” There are no historical markers or statues commemorating Mr. Estes.

James Dallas, Contributor



Annual Treasury Report: 2023

2024 was a fair year for Grace, but tight. Total revenues for the year came to \$106,989.27. Expenses during the year totaled \$110,005.65, giving us a negative balance for the year of **-\$3,016.38**.

We had a positive monthly balance in May, November, and December, with a negative balance in all others. By August, we were edging toward an empty checking account and transferred funds from savings in both August and September, totaling \$6,000. The Mission Council decided to reduce the amount designated for organ expenses by that amount.

Although we regularly need organ maintenance, we have an interest-bearing account held by the Diocese for organ expenses. We request reimbursement from this fund as we have organ expenses. The balance of that fund after the withdrawals was \$9,982.00, as of September 30.

We closed out the year with a checking balance of \$6,211 and savings balance of \$46,964.60. The savings account is designated to \$19,500 for the

organ fund, \$20,650 for the building fund, and \$795.66 undesignated. The total balance also includes \$18.94 interest accrued in Dec. and \$6,000 escrowed income for 2024, \$500 of which will be apportioned to the checking account monthly.

David Thomas, Treasurer

***Provided as promised in the January issue of Grace Notes.**

December Mission Council Minutes

Fr. Joe recognized a quorum was present and gave an opening prayer at 6:00 pm.

Scribe's Report –The minutes for the Nov. 2023 meeting of the Mission Council were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: David Thomas. David sent the Nov. financial reports to the mission council members. He presented the reports in detail. Revenue exceeded expenses for the first time in several months. As of the year ending Nov. 30, 2023, our approved budget was expected to be a shortfall of **-\$6,095.11**. David will check into a \$200 discrepancy in the Vicar's compensation area. Bill Rieger moved to pay the latest organ tuning invoice and submit the invoice to the diocese for reimbursement. Seconded by Charles Cochran. Motion carried.

Vicar's Report: Fr. Joe shared the following items. Inquirer's Class – still in progress. Upcoming Lenten studies are being planned, to include soup suppers. Delegates for the Annual Diocesan Convention: Peggy Roberts and Jessica Farmer will serve as delegates, with John Harvey as alternate. Lessons & Carols had 40 people in attendance. The Mission Council Nominating Committee reported that James Dallas is willing to serve. Christmas services are scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 24, with IV Avent at 10:00 am. and Carols at 5:30 pm, followed by Christmas service at 6:00 pm. No services will be held on Mon., Dec. 25. Grace's Annual Meeting will be held on Sun., Jan. 14, 2024, immediately after the service, including presentation of annual reports and the election to fill vacancies on the mission council. The bishop will visit in June 2024.

Senior Warden's Report: Carol Martinez. Discussion was held on the budget and stewardship activities. Security Issues – Completion of Safeguarding God's Children training is due for all who work with our children. Mission Council

members were reminded that all Ministry Liaison Reports are to be completed and submitted to Carol, and will be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

Jr. Warden's Report: Bill Rieger. HVAC tune-up and service has been completed. Fall Cleanup of the grounds was a success on Nov. 18. The gutter cleaning has been completed. Red pads have been placed on all folding chairs in Faith Hall.

Liaison Reports: Carol Martinez.

Communications – Peggy Roberts, Several visitors have been in attendance the last few Sundays. Three new visitors were greeted last Sunday during Lessons and Carols. Grace needs to encourage the congregation to bring visitors.

Children's Ministry–Carol Martinez for Will Pomeroy. No Children's Church the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Carol relayed that the current version of the permission forms for children sent by Will Pomeroy is correct.

Outreach –Charles Cochran. Grace Church members have donated 1,359 lbs. of food as of the end of Nov. 2023, and The Well has provided lists of Christmas gifts for challenged families. Delivery will be made on Dec. 22.

Congregational Life–Robert Chapman. No Fifth Sunday Brunch in Dec. Christmas Parade has been rescheduled for Dec. 16.

Old Business: Fr. Joe is continuing efforts to plan for a meeting with the mission council and Canon Jody Howard.

Fr. Joe closed the meeting with a blessing at 7:25 pm. Respectfully submitted, Chuck Warnick, Scribe

Clergy and Staff

The R. Rev. Dr. John C. Bauerschmidt, Bishop
The Rev. Joseph N. Davis, Vicar
Deanie Moore, Dir. of Music
Susan Browning, Financial Administrator

The Mission Council

Carol Martinez, Sr. Warden
Bill Rieger, Jr. Warden
David Thomas, Treas.
James Dallas, Christian Ed. & Children's Ministry
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach
Peggy Roberts, Communications
Jessica Farmer, Congregational Life

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

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

