

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# Grace Notes

Volume VII, Issue 5  
 May 2024

*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.	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM	Children's Church
Sun.	10:00 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, (monthly)
Wed., 2nd	Noon	Holy Eucharist
	11:30 – 3:00 PM	Father 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 Notes

Here are a number of dates to note on the church calendar. Information on activities and programs at Grace will be received via email and Facebook.

<b>May 19</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Pentecost/Whitsunday</b> <b>Day to Honor Teachers</b> <b>Plate Offering for Children's Church</b>
<b>May 26</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
May 31		Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>June 2</b>		<b>DOK Membership Meeting,</b> <b>immediately following 10:00 worship.</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Welcome Bishop, Faith Hall,</b> <b>Time with our Bishop</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>and Confirmation of Steven Wallace</b>
June 11		St. Barnabas The Apostle
June 24		Nativity of St. John The Baptist
June 29		Apostles St. Peter & St. Paul

### Vicar's Vagaries

Since the end of April, one of the wonders of nature has been happening all around us: the thirteen-year cicadas have come out of the ground to enjoy their ever-so-brief time in the sun as they emerge from their exoskeletons, change from unearthly white creatures to big-eyed bugs, sing their love songs, reproduce, and finally die. Saturday afternoon I was able to spend some time on our patio listening to them and watching some of them fly across the yard from one tree to another.

Some people look on them as a nuisance, but aren't they amazing? Somehow, they know how to lie dormant for thirteen years and come out when the ground reaches sixty-four degrees. Some of them come out after seventeen years. In some

places, both types are coming out at the same time, and they know which ones they are supposed to mate with.

It could be, I suppose, that cicadas have learned what to do and how to live purely by evolutionary chance several millions of years. I cannot prove otherwise, and I see no reason why God could not work through evolution; but I believe that we see in such wonders the art of God, who created Leviathan “for the sport of it.” (Psalm 104:26) St. Thomas Aquinas taught that we could learn about God by observing his creation, but that we need the revelation of scripture to know the kinds of things we could not deduce from our sense experience. In the Episcopal Church, we read a great deal of the Bible in church in our three-year Eucharistic lectionary cycle, and we are much better off for doing so. But we also can see the glory of God manifest in his creation by taking the time to look closely, and to listen carefully, to the world around us.

Lately, we have had a solar eclipse, the coming of the cicadas, and auroras caused by huge, violent solar storms. The light from the storms has taken two or three days to reach us. We know these things because of the collective knowledge of human scientists, who have been gathering knowledge about the earth and the stars since the beginning of the human race.

Of all the wonders of creation, by far the most amazing is humanity. In honor of the wonder of the way God involves men and women in the procreation and nurture of children, in late spring we celebrate Mother’s Day and Father’s Day (May 12 and June 16). As with the cicadas, many believe that human beings are the product of the chance evolution of the human race. The scriptures teach us that people are created in the image and likeness of God, and that God loved us so much that he sent his Son to become a man born to the Virgin Mary his mother. No one is going to make you believe one way or the other. I believe it makes much more sense to believe in God as our creator and redeemer. The scriptures teach that love is at the heart of

existence, and that our Lord wants his joy to be full in us.

I am including below a prayer that was said at Grace on Mother’s Day.

Father Joseph N. Davis

### *A Prayer for Mothers*

*Our heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of creation, for natural life in this world of mystery and beauty, and for the power you give all who trust in Jesus to be born of you into abundant, endless life in him.*

*We thank you for our mothers, in whose wombs you created our inmost parts and knit us together in secret long before we were born, who gave us birth and cared for us through childhood, whose support and devotion equipped us for adult life, and whose wisdom has encouraged and guided us along the path of our lives.*

*We ask your blessing upon all mothers, that through them your redeeming love may embrace, tend, and strengthen their own children and all who know them. Be with them as they do the work you have given them to do.*

*Protect them in their vulnerability, that they may keep safe those who are most at risk; empower them to fulfill the hopes you have given them for their children and for themselves; and comfort those who grieve the separation or loss of their children.*

*For those whose desire for children was not fulfilled, grant them consolation and joy through friendships with those who need their gifts. For people who have not known their own mother’s love, we give thanks for the presence of others who have been a source of nurturing, wisdom, and courage.*

*For those who mourn the loss of their mothers, may they always remember the ways your love and joy came to them through the unique person of their mothers.*

*In the name Jesus, born of Mary, we pray.*

Fr. Joe Davis

### **Children's Church Summer Schedule**

The Children's Church ministry team will be conducting a special series of children's lessons this summer, entitled "Lava Lava Luau."

The series will encourage children to develop a mature and faithful understanding of negative emotions (anger, jealousy, frustration, sadness) as well as the importance of being kind in the face of adversity. Lessons will include unique crafts and activities. We will be holding Children's Church on these days this summer:

- Sunday, June 2 - "Angry Volcano"
- Sun., June 9 - "Cool Shirt"
- Sun., June 30 - "Frustration Beach"
- Sun., July 14 - "Weeping Rains"
- Sun., July 28 - "Sweet, Sweet Pineapple"

Note that we are skipping June 16 for Father's Day. Additionally, there will be no Children's Church program for the month of August. We will reconvene in September after the new school year has started. We are looking forward to a fun and educational summer!

James Dallas, Christian Ed. & Children's Ministry

### **Daughters of the King Membership Meeting**

Grace DOK chapter will hold a meeting to share information and address inquiries about membership in the Order of the Daughters of the King. This meeting will be immediately following the Grace Episcopal service on June 2. The Diocesan President, Rita Sue Warner, will be present to provide information and relative questions. Please contact Carolyn at 615.752.6467 for additional information.

Carolyn Warnick, DOK, Pres.

### **Bishop's Visitation and Confirmation, June 9**

On June 9, Bishop John C. Bauerschmidt will make his annual visitation to Grace Church. Please gather in Faith Hall at 9:00 to hear the bishop talk about his ecumenical work with the Roman Catholic Church, his recent visit to Rome, and his thoughts on the state of the Anglican Communion. He will preach and celebrate at the 10:00 Eucharist. He will also

confirm Steven Wallace, who has been attending our inquirers class since last fall.

We will have a brief reception in the parish hall following the service. We need volunteers to bring snacks and finger foods of different types for the reception. A sign-up sheet is available in Faith Hall for you to sign up and indicate what you will bring.

The mission council and the bishop will meet briefly in the church after the reception.

### **Grace Episcopal Church 146 Year Story**

In 1875, with a budget of \$1800, the equivalent of about \$40,000 today, construction on Grace Church was begun with a Carpenter Gothic design by P. J. Williamson, a Nashville architect. Grace's design contains both Norman and Gothic influences, making it a unique structure and one of only eight remaining structures that the architect designed. There are two of his buildings on the Vanderbilt campus including the Old Gymnasium and Vanderbilt University Wesley Hall. Other local designs of Mr. Williamson are Mount Olivet Cemetery, First Presbyterian Church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cowan, McClung & Company Building, also known as Fidelity Building, City Block Hotel, Nashville, Church House, Columbia, TN, and McClung mansion in Knoxville.

Grace was consecrated on May 16, 1878, one hundred forty-six years ago. Services began before the consecration, however. The first confirmation was of Sam Warren in 1875, the first wedding was that of Nannie Campbell and James McKay in 1877, and the first baptisms were of Allen, Colin, and Argyle Campbell in 1879.

Here are some wonderful facts about this historic building. The altar was carved by the Rev. Johannes Oertel, a minister and artist in residence at the Columbia Institute, a girl's school in Columbia, TN. The altar rail was carved by T. S. Morton, a teacher at Branham and Hughes Academy, a boys' school which did admit girls for a few short years. The railing was carved out of a single tree from the Campbell/Ewell Farm at the end of Depot Street. The rail up the stairs to the altar is a memorial to Allen Campbell, one of the first confirmands, who served as a lay reader for years and led Morning Prayer on many occasions.

Alicia Fitts & Peggy Roberts



**May Well Food Donations:  
106 lbs. & \$100**



The Well Outreach opened in Spring Hill 18 years ago and continues to provide food for those in need in Spring Hill and other area communities.

Recently, Fr. Joe, Charles Cochran, and I got to tour The Well facility that is located just down the street from Grace Episcopal Church. John Sage, community engagement manager at The Well, welcomed us to the facility. He reminded us that when the food pantry began some area churches provided specific food items. Grace was the Top Ramen church. When I joined the congregation in 2013, we were still providing packages of Top Ramen. I even heard a story about Grace hosting a Top Ramen potluck so everyone could experience the many ways to enjoy this noodle dish. I cannot verify that information. But does anyone want to host a Ramen cook-off? Today our donations are varied. Top Ramen is often in the boxes.

John was most appreciative of the work that Grace and the people who attend our church do for The Well. He mentioned Peggy and Dick Roberts, who make donations directly to the pantry in addition to contributing to what Grace provides. We are a small church, but John acknowledged us in a big way. As John took us through the various rooms at The Well, cans of vegetables, boxes of cereal, and many other items were displayed for those who come to The Well. It is not just packaged food - meat, vegetables, and fruits are offered.

I was glad to see a shelf for dog and cat food since I am an avid pet lover. Unfortunately, those shelves were empty so you can be sure that my next contribution will include food for animals.

Other shelves that stood empty or did not have many contribution included areas for fresh eggs, soap, shampoo, and hygiene products. Of course, the available items change daily.

Charles shares with the congregation what types of food and other supplies are needed. Then he

always says his favorite phrase, "Remember The Well."

Where does the food come from? Seven stores on Main Street provide food including fresh bread, cakes, and more. The community contributions of food and The Well Outreach can purchase food at discounted rates from Second Harvest Food Bank and other area organizations.

The staff and the volunteers at The Well pray with and for people who need food. The people of Grace provide prayers for the hungry and each month Fr. Joe blesses our contributions before they are distributed to people in need. We are all blessed to be part of this project that helps so many.

Carol Martinez, Sr. Warden



*Baby Red Shouldered Hawks*

\*Follow the two blue lines

**Best Mothers  
of 2024**

All mothers strive to be the best mothers for the children they gave birth to and love so dearly. Watching Mother Nature this springtime is so overwhelming, and we are humbled when we make time and make ourselves available to the out-of-doors.

We watched the diligent couple carefully choose the materials for their large, rugged nest built in early March just 50-60 feet from our house. Mamma Red-Shoulder Hawk laid her eggs and proceeded to incubate them for about 30 days with only occasional help from her mate. As a mother myself, I knew she was giving her all and I admired her strength and lengthy commitment.

Now, the two babies are fuzzy white balls with dark eyes. Their heads appear whenever they hear

their parents call as they approach with food (rats & mice), stop in a nearby tree, call again, and then carry their meal in and disperse their finds to the hawk kids.

As observers and co-parents with the nearest neighbors, we have numerous pictures from the ground. We are so proud of the determination mom and dad continue to exhibit. Only a mighty God could create this incredible artwork of nature.

Peggy Roberts, Communications

### **Time to Call the Paramedics**

Recently at church there was a medical emergency, and the paramedics were called to Grace. We are happy to report that the patient is doing well and was sent home from the hospital that same day.

Thanks so much to all the members who responded quickly to the situation. Dr. Lizz Klammer called 911. Special thanks to Michele Gibson O'Grady, one of the medical professionals who attends our church. Michele is a midwife in addition to being a nurse, so if anyone gives birth at Grace, we will be ready. Also, a doctor who was a first-time visitor to Grace immediately helped the patient. Preparing ahead for the possibility of CPR, Erin Harvey volunteered that she has current CPR certification. Fortunately, CPR was not required, and the emergency personnel and the paramedics arrived and took charge.

A list of member emergency contacts, relatives, and friends is maintained in the church office available to Fr. Joe and all mission Council members in case someone at church becomes ill or is involved in an emergency. We can quickly reach out to the appropriate family member. This list needs to be constantly updated.

Also, Grace is seeking information on CPR classes available in our area. Once we have that information, it will appear in the bulletin and Grace Notes. The Spring Hill Fire Department offers CPR

classes, but they have been remarkably busy during this tornado season.

Carol Martinez, Sr. Warden

**\* Approved Treasurer's reports and Mission Council minutes for March will be posted on the Faith Hall bulletin board for further member information.**

### **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>.

