

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume VIII, Issue 8
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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: Carol Martinez, LaRue Schmelzer, or Fr. Joe.

Services & Continuing Events

Sun.	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 AM	Children’s Church
Sun.	10:00 AM	Facebook Online Service,
Tues. & Fri.	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
Wed.	10:00 AM	Daughters of The King, (monthly)
Wed.	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 some dates to note on the church calendar. Information on activities and programs at Grace will be received via email and Facebook.

Aug. 24	St. Bartholomew the Apostle
Aug. 25	Daughters of the King Meeting
Sept. 8	Children’s Church Resumes
Sept. 14	Holy Cross Day
Sept. 29	St. Michael and All Angels
Sept. 21	St. Matthew the Apostle
Sept. 30	St. Michael and All Angels
Oct. 6	Blessing of the Animals, St. Francis of Assisi
Oct. 18	Saint Luke the Evangelist
Oct. 23	Saint James of Jerusalem

Vicar’s Vagaries

One of Your Last Gifts to Those You Love

Sooner or later, we are all going to die. For many of us, that day may come in the far distant future; but when it comes, it can feel all too sudden to those who mean the most to you. When they are missing your presence and mourning your loss, they will also be doing all the tasks that people do when they lose a loved one. As the second executor of my father’s estate, having inherited this responsibility from my late brother, I speak from experience.

One of the things you can do before you are even thinking about shuffling off this mortal coil is plan your own funeral service. If you don’t, someone else will have to make these decisions. Why would you leave that up to others? It may be hard for them to guess what would be appropriate for you. You can decide on or at least suggest the lessons, hymns, and other details long before they are needed. I have recently updated a form for planning a funeral, and

I would be glad to give or send you a copy so you can get to work on it. You may also look up in your Book of Common Prayer the services for the Burial of the Dead on pp. 469-507. You will find there the lessons and psalms to choose from. If you do not have a Book of Common Prayer, I suggest that it could be one of the most practical purchases you ever make in your life.

When you have made your plan, you can leave a copy with the church to keep on file in the office, and you can give a copy to a close relative so someone will have it when it is needed. Especially if your loved ones are not members of your church, if you want your funeral to be done in the church with a Eucharist, a sermon, and some of your favorite lessons and hymns, you need to record your choices and leave them where the right people can find them.

Included on this form are spaces where you may check “will” and “obituary” off your list. If you don’t have one, you need to make a will. Yours may need updating. A lawyer can help you get that done. And you should write your own obituary, or at least a draft of one, so your loved ones will not have to pull that information together at such a busy time. My father told me I should do that myself, and he led by example. When I completed his obituary, I based it on what he had written a few years earlier, before his dementia began to obscure the sharpness of his intellect.

While I am on this subject, I want to mention one more matter. After my mother died in 1999, my brother, sister, and I had a “family business meeting” with Dad. Our father told us all about his retirement accounts, his insurance, and his will. He updated us as his situation changed. Long before he died, he arranged his own burial plan (with my help). Though we were sad when he died, we were all grateful for all the information he shared freely with us.

If you would like to meet with me to discuss your choices, I would be glad to help you in any way I could.

Father Joe

Children’s Church to Resume September 8

On July 28, we completed the last session of the Children’s Church summer program. The theme for the summer program was “Lava Lava Luau” where we explored how the Bible teaches us how to control our normal negative feelings such as anger, jealousy, or frustration. During our final session, we also learned how to deal with people who show negative feelings toward us by showing kindness to those people. Of course, we ended our session with a luau. We had a fantastic group of children, ranging in age from 3 to 11. During August, we are taking a short break.

In September, we will resume our regular weekly schedule and return to our normal curriculum. This curriculum was designed to follow the liturgical year. The children are hearing the same gospel readings as their parents, but at a child’s level. Our goal is to help the children acquire a familiarity with the life of Christ and the events of the church year, in a way that is vivid and memorable. We add games, skits, or crafts to keep it interesting (preschoolers have very short attention spans). We encourage participation, even if it is of the loud variety! What is important is that they hear the gospel and worship Almighty God in their own way, and at their own pace.

On September 8, we will begin our fall sessions learning about one of Jesus’ classic miracles – the healing of a deaf and dumb man. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention how rewarding it is to see faith through a child’s eyes. I encourage you to consider joining our teaching team, even if it’s only one Sunday every couple of months. It would be one of the best gifts you can give yourself.

Faithfully, Susan Austin

A Close Look at Our Hymnal

In the newsletter, I usually write about individual hymns. This time, I thought I would write about our hymnal as a whole.

The hymns are arranged according to the Church Year, beginning with Advent. Next are hymns for observing the sacraments, and then topical hymns such as the Trinity, the Kingdom of God, and Scripture.

At the bottom left of each hymn is some basic information: the author of the text and the composer or origin of the tune. Each tune has a name given by the composer or arranger. Some are named for people, as in the tune for the Christmas hymn “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.” The tune is named “Mendelssohn,” after the composer Felix Mendelssohn. Older hymns, which were originally written in Latin, French, or German, might have the tune named after the first phrase. For instance, the tune name for “Hail Thee, Festival Day!” is “*Salve Festa Dies*,” which is the first line in Latin. Every now and then a composer has a sense of humor. The English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, after writing the tune for the hymn “For All the Saints,” gave it the name “*Sine Nomine*,” which translates to “Without a Name!” At the bottom right are some numbers and letters which have to do with the meter of the text. The numbers tell how many syllables are in each line of the verses, and the letters (SM, CM, LM, etc.) indicate the standard poetic meters, Short Meter, Common Meter, and Long Meter.

The back of the hymnal has several indexes, some more interesting than others! There are copyrights; Authors, Translators, and Sources (other hymnals and collections); Tune Names; and an Index of First Lines of the hymn texts.

While some of these things might seem a little useless to the average Episcopalian in the pew, I hope that you might find them interesting, and maybe even helpful. I hope you will use this information to look up your favorite hymns, and then be sure to tell me about them!

Deanie Moore, Music Director

DOK Membership Opportunity in August

The Grace Church Chapter of the Daughters of the King will be offering another informational session on August 25 after church for ladies interested in seeking a deeper life of prayer and service in Christ Jesus. See me or any Daughter of the King for more information.

Carolyn Warnick, DOK, Pres.

Our Church Library

On a recent Sunday, Fr. Joe talked about William Wilberforce in his sermon. Wilberforce was a member of the House of Commons in the British Parliament who was generally recognized as the leader of the English abolitionist movement. The Grace Library, located in Faith Hall, includes a biography of William Wilberforce written by Stephen Tomkins. I recently read this book, and I highly recommend it. Also on the shelves is a book titled *A Year Thanksgivings: A Memoir*, written by Sallie Read Hicks and Joseph N. Davis, our Vicar. As Fr. Joe says about this book, Sallie did all the talking, and Fr. Joe did all the writing. But as Fr. Joe will tell you, there are many great classics of Christian spirituality, history, and teaching on these shelves that you could read.

You may borrow and read any book you like (though we ask that you do not remove the volumes of the *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* from Faith Hall). We just ask that you return them to the shelves after you have read them.

If you want a book recommendation, talk to Fr. Joe. He enjoys helping people find books they will enjoy and learn from.

I hope you enjoy turning the pages of one of the books from the Grace Library.

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden



**Remember to bring your Well
donations!**



*Approved Mission Council minutes and presented Treasurer's reports will be posted on Faith Hall bulletin board for more member information.

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