

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume VII, Issue 6
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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.	10:00 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.

June 2	DOK Membership Meeting, immediately following 10:00 worship.
June 9 10:00 AM	Bishop’s Annual Visit
June 11	St. Barnabas The Apostle
June 16	Father’s Day
June 24	Nativity of St. John The Baptist
June 29	Apostles St. Peter & St. Paul
June 30	Fifth Sunday Brunch, (following 10:00 Service)
July 4	Independence Day
July 22	St. Mary Magdalene
July 25	St. James The Apostle
July 26	The Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Vicar’s Vagaries

What Bible Should I Get?

People sometimes ask my advice when they are ready to buy themselves a Bible. They may already have their parents’ Bible—probably a King James—but it doesn’t have any notes, and it is in 16th century English, which is not as popular as it used to be just 50 years ago. (When my mother decided to read the Book of Job to me when I was 8, in 1965, it never occurred to her to read it from any other Bible than the King James. It was the “Authorized Edition” to many generations of our ancestors.)

From when I entered seminary in 1983 until about ten years ago, I used the Revised Standard Version for reading the Daily Office (Morning and Evening

Prayer) and for lessons read in church services. This is my favorite Bible, and the study notes in the Oxford Annotated RSV Study Bible with the Apocrypha are economical but excellent. But for teaching Bible studies and help with sermon writing, I have used the New International Version (NIV) for about 35 years. This Bible has an Evangelical flavor to it rather than high church Anglican or Catholic. Its study notes are thorough. I recommend this Bible for getting lots of information about what you are reading.

About 26 years ago, I gave my Grandpa Savage (my mother's father) a new Bible that was different from the ones listed above. It was a Life Application Study Bible version of the NIV, and it was *large print*, which was a real plus so Grandpa could see to read it as well as possible. After his death in 2001, no one else wanted his old Bible, so I gave it a happy home on the shelf with my other Bibles. Now I use it for Sunday sermon preparation, especially when I get stuck and do not know what to preach about. I love this Bible because it preaches to the reader little sermons based on every part of the Bible. You could open this Bible up to Leviticus, Habakkuk, or 3 John, and it might make you think the note writers have addressed their comments directly to you, personally.

In 2002, I began teaching a Bible study at St. Philip, Memphis, because several of the members asked me for more teaching on the Bible. I found on the bookshelf a Serendipity Bible (also the NIV translation). The word "serendipity" gives us a clue to this type of Bible. It means that you will find surprises between its covers. This Bible has comments and questions on the outside margins of its pages. There are questions with a book icon next to a section of text. These questions have answers you can find by looking them up in the Bible itself. Such questions have helped me clarify what is important in various passages. This Bible also has questions that have a heart symbol beside them. This heart means you cannot find the answer in the book. You must reflect, think, and pray to find your answers to these questions. This Bible helped me approach texts from a different perspective. It gave me questions I might address in sermons or classes.

It makes suggestions about ways to understand the story of one's own spiritual life. It helps readers find that *they themselves* have a story and that they have had a spiritual life all their lives, even if they did not know it. I used this Bible during the pandemic while teaching a Bible study from home via Zoom on the lessons for upcoming Sundays. We never had more than about five people attend, but those who tuned in all contributed, learned, and enjoyed the experience, as did I.

At a book sale church fundraiser in about 2004, I found a Living Bible translation that piqued my curiosity. It was very clean and new-looking, and it only cost a dollar or two, so I bought it. This Bible is not a word for word translation. It is a *paraphrase*. Its writers have tried to give an up-to-date interpretation of the text for contemporary times (as of about 30 years ago, when it was published). This text often helps me make sense of passages, such as rather intricate parts of Romans or Galatians, in simpler language than other translations which aim at a more word-to-word correspondence. I love the way this Bible renders Ephesians 2:10. The NIV says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." The Living Bible has "For we are God's *masterpiece*..." Truly, we are God's greatest work of art, God's version of Michaelangelo's *David*. I particularly appreciate the insight given by this paraphrased translation.

I often wondered why no one had updated the RSV to preserve the style of the King James Bible, on which the RSV was based, while updating the language into current idiomatic English. Then I found the English Standard Version (ESV). I bought the ESV in the study Bible edition when it came out. I have the ESV in an app on my phone, and I often look up passages on this app when I am out and about. This may be to me the most satisfying updated translation of the Bible. Drawbacks are the very small print and the fact that the Episcopal Church does not print its lesson books in this text.

The last point brings me to the NRSV, the New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha. This is the text from which the lectionary book at Grace Church takes its lessons. It is the Bible of the Church

Publishing Incorporated uses for its latest edition of the Daily Office Book. Our Revised Common Lectionary book uses the NRSV. The study notes in the regular edition of this Bible are brief but good. For people who want to have the text most likely to be used in Episcopal churches today and in the near future, this is probably the best Bible to have. As an old King James Bible church member, whose ear was trained on 16th century English, the awkwardness and bluntness of some of the texts in this Bible are not attractive. But I am giving it a try and getting used to it.

Which Bible is best for you? I am not sure, but I know one thing. When I was a child, no one in my church thought about buying a “Study Bible.” Now, the footnotes, study notes, and cross-references probably make more difference to me than any other factors. Thank God for the democratization of Bible study. For the Church to thrive in the 21st century, we need a much better-educated laity (as well as clergy!). I would say we need laypeople who are capable, qualified, and determined to educate themselves and their children. Who is going to do this for you if you do not do it for yourself?

If you do not have one, run, do not walk, to your nearest bookstore, or to Amazon, or to eBay, or even Good Will or McKay Used Books, and get yourself a study Bible that is best for you. A good way to start studying on your own or with your family might be to look up the lessons for next Sunday and read them, along with the study notes, in your own Bible a few days before the Sunday service. Then see what a difference it makes in what you get out of the sermon.

A study Bible makes a great gift for a teenager, for Christmas, a birthday, or graduation. Every college student needs a Bible handy for use in classes. I recommend taking classes on the Bible in college, too. Everyone needs to take elective classes, even engineering majors.

If you need any help, do not hesitate to ask me. And if you get a study Bible, please tell me what you got and how you like it.

Father Joe

All Creatures of Our God & King

Text: All Creatures of Our God and King,
Francis of Assisi; tr. by William Draper in 1919
Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, 1623, arr. R. V.
Williams

Psalm 148 is a call to all things in all creation to praise the Lord. Angels, heavenly hosts, sun, moon, stars, lightning and hail, snow, clouds, winds, mountains, hills, trees, animals, cattle, birds, kings, nations, princes, rulers, young men, maidens, old men, and children. That about covers it!

No matter how you look at it, we are called to praise the Lord. One of the most beautiful hymns for praising God is number 400 in our hymnal, “All Creatures of Our God and King.” The text was written in 1225 by Francis of Assisi, an itinerant medieval monk who preached and devoted his life to helping the poor. Francis believed strongly in the importance of church music. He wrote more than 60 hymns for use in the monastery. The English translation was made by William Draper, a village rector. He prepared this paraphrase for a children’s choir festival, at some time between 1899 and 1919.

*“Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness.
Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
Alleluia!”*

Deanie Moore, Music Director

Treasure Chest of Prayers

Every Sunday we at Grace turn to The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two, on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Sometime before or after church I would like to suggest that you turn your prayer book to page 814 to a section called Prayers and Thanksgivings. Seventy prayers including Prayers for the World, Prayers for Social Order, and Prayers for Family and Personal Life are among the subjects. Also, there are 11 prayers for Thanksgiving.

Fr. Joe includes some of these prayers in the services at Grace. I hope you find this section of the Prayer Book a good addition to your prayer life. Here is Prayer 1:

'For Joy in God's Creation'

*O Heavenly Father,
who hast filled the world with beauty:
Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand
in all thy works;
that, rejoicing in thy whole creation,
we may learn to serve thee with gladness;
for the sake of him through whom
all things were made,
the Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Carol Martinez, Sr. Warden

Meet Linus

Linus is a three-year-old Golden Doodle. Yes, he is black, but he is mostly a poodle with a sprinkle of golden retriever. Linus is a service dog. He helps his human keep her balance, and when she does not, he helps her get back up from a fall. He is also able to pick up items and give them to her, or just carry them.



When he is not working, Linus enjoys life as a dog. He lives on a 5-acre farm. He has both dog and cat friends as well as pigs, donkeys, and goats. His favorite friends, however, are the chickens. He likes to snatch a chicken and run with it. The chickens are not fans. You could say that chickens are his Kryptonite.

Blessings, Kathleen Klunk

DOK Membership Opportunity in August

Daughters of the King met informally June 9 following the Bishop's Annual Visit, two confirmations, and a reception. DOK will be offering a second informational session in August for members considering a deeper life of prayer and service in Christ Jesus.

Carolyn Warnick, DOK, Pres.

Miracles Fill the Rooms

Each Sunday, we pray for all who are affected by addiction and their families and friends, and for those who are involved in recovery ministries of any type. But who are the people affected by addiction? It might surprise you to know that almost everyone we meet is affected by addiction in one way or another.

The most obvious people affected by addiction are the addicts themselves. And that is who we will talk about today. Contrary to the stereotypes many of us grew up with, not all alcoholics live on skid row and not all drug addicts are violent criminals who are homeless. In fact, many alcoholics and drug addicts live in middle-class neighborhoods, have jobs, go to school, are married and have children. The homelessness, violence and criminal behavior do not usually occur until the later stages of addiction.

An alcoholic is a person who is addicted to alcohol. A drug addict is a person who is addicted to mood-altering chemicals. Interestingly, many addicts today became addicted to prescription drugs, which were prescribed by physicians with the intention of helping the person live with chronic pain. There was an urban myth that many well-educated, well-intentioned medical professionals believed – that if a person takes a drug as prescribed for its intended purpose, the person will not become addicted to that drug. That myth has been debunked.

I doubt if there is anybody who said, “When I grow up, I’m going to be an alcoholic,” or “I think I’ll get addicted to heroin.” No, most people start out by taking an occasional drink or toke or pill to relax or have fun. Almost nobody starts out drinking alcoholically. Addiction takes time. In the beginning, most people can and do choose when and how much they are going to drink or use. There are

some people who may even drink quite a lot on a regular basis who never become addicted to alcohol. So how do you know who is an alcoholic and who is just a heavy drinker? The joke is that you know who an alcoholic is because only alcoholics go to meetings.

There is an old saying that first the man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes the man. An alcoholic or drug addict is the person who loses the ability to choose when and how much he or she will drink or use. If you ask an alcoholic why he drinks the way he drinks, believe him when he tells you he does not know. Alcoholics drink the way they drink because they must drink that way. If the alcoholic does not put alcohol in his system, he retains the choice of whether to drink or use. But once an alcoholic takes a drink, he cannot guarantee what his behavior will be. As time goes by and the alcoholic continues to use alcohol, he begins to experience life consequences because of his drinking. As time goes by, the consequences add up, until the day the alcoholic experiences what is called in AA the moment of “pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization.” This is the moment the alcoholic is ready to accept a solution. In the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous this experience is known as the Gift of Desperation. This is the moment of truth. This is the moment when God has an opportunity to perform a miracle. The rooms of AA are full of miracles.

Anonymous

Note: Alcoholics Anonymous meets twice a week at Grace Church. The Twelve Steps of AA were devised with the help of an Episcopal priest named Samuel Shoemaker, who was instrumental in helping form AA in its early years. JND+



Eat, Crochet, Love,

Every Thursday morning in Faith Hall at Grace Episcopal Church a group of ladies gather to knit, crochet, and be together.

They turn yarn into throws, blankets for babies, and many special items. One lady works with

“plarn” (a yarn created by cutting together plastic strips from grocery bags) and she makes mats for the homeless.

Anyone who crochets, knits, or wants to learn is welcome to attend the weekly gathering from 9 to 11 am.

After the meeting they go to lunch at a local restaurant. I joined them for lunch on a recent Thursday. They are a fun and welcoming group.

For more information, reach out to Diann Schneider.

Carol Martinez, Sr. Warden



**May Well Donations:
94 lbs. of Food**



***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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