

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

# Grace Notes

Volume VIII, Issue 10  
 November and  
 December 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: 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.

Dec. 8	Blessing of 2025 pledges during the 10 am service
Dec. 11, 6:00 p.m.	Mission Council Meeting
Dec. 14	Spring Hill Christmas Parade
Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service (Carols at 4:30 pm)
Dec. 29	Last Date to Contribute in 2024
Jan. 12	Annual Meeting after the 10 am service
Jan. 24 and 25	Diocesan Convention at Good Shepherd in Nashville.

**Vicar’s Vagaries**

**Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany**

The four Sundays before Christmas comprise the season of Advent, which is a time of quiet and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Each Sunday in Advent is unique and has its own emphasis. Together, they help us “keep our lamps trimmed and burning” so we will be ready for the ways that God comes to us in our world. Christmas has its own twelve-day season between December 25 and January 5. Epiphany begins on January 6 and last through to Shrove Tuesday, which will be on March 4, 2025.

This year, our **Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.**, an hour earlier than the last few years. **The carol singing will begin at 4:30 p.m.** I recommend coming early. Last year, the church was full by five minutes before the singing started.

I hope everyone will do what it takes to attend the “Christ Mass.” If you have visiting loved ones who won’t come with you, I feel your pain. Maybe your example will be a word from God that worshipping Christ on the feast of his birth must mean something if it is that important to you.

Having said that, I support your choice to live out Christ’s love in the way that you think is best.

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### **Annual Meeting January 12**

The annual meeting is always on the second Sunday of January, according to our bylaws. That is January 12 this year. The meeting will begin after the 10:00 service. You will hear reports from various ministries of the church. The vicar, the senior warden, the junior warden, and the treasurer all make an oral report. Several reports are distributed in written form. These reports are an excellent record of what happened in the life of our congregation in the past year.

We will elect four mission council members and three members of the finance committee this year. Mission council members are currently seeking nominations. Every confirmed member in good standing over the age of 16 may vote.

### **The Gospel of Luke in Year C**

On the first Sunday of Advent, we began a new liturgical year. It is now Year C (Book of Common Prayer, p. 911), the year in which our Sunday lessons from the gospel usually come from Luke. As a Gentile, he is writing for a mixed readership of Jews and Gentiles. he is concerned to make it clear how the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of a particular Jewish rabbi have significance for the whole world. As a physician, he is trained in paying attention to details, so it is not surprising that he carefully places the coming of Christ in its historical context (in the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberius).

In his account of the parable of the Good Samaritan, he reveals Jesus’ appreciation for the fact that a non-Jew (the Samaritan) can serve as an example to people who think they are too holy to

help a needy person. He would know how the poor cannot afford basic healthcare, yet his version of Jesus’ beatitudes tells us, “Blessed are you poor, for yours in the kingdom of heaven.” It would be hard to accuse Luke of being overly spiritual in his emphasis. He knows how much this world and the people in it matter to Christ.

If you would like to read an excellent fictional novel about Luke, I highly recommend *Theophilus*, by Michael O’Brien. I found its presentation of the ancient classical Greek and Roman culture very convincing and the interviews with people who knew Jesus most convincing. This could be some very good winter holiday reading.

Fr. Joe

### **Emergency Preparedness Update**

The first aid kit at Grace Episcopal church was recently updated by Michele Gibson O’Grady and LaRue and Gerald Schmelzer. The kit is located in the kitchen in Faith Hall.

When a medical emergency takes place at Grace, we depend on the medical professionals who attend our church to assist people in need before first responders arrive.

The medical professionals are: Michele Gibson O’Grady, Nicole Poirier, Michael McGuire, Jessica Farmer, LaRue Schmelzer, and Erin Harvey. If you need medical assistance when you are at Grace you could reach out to one of these people. Also, all members of the mission council - Bill Rieger, Charles Cochran, Susan Austin, and I, as well as Fr. Joe - have access to a list of emergency contact people for all regular attendees at Grace. One of us will reach out to the appropriate person immediately in an emergency situation.

John Harvey and Bill Rieger both have a lot of experience welcoming the 911 responders to Grace and they take care of that task. Presently our plan is to clear the sanctuary only if CPR or another medical procedure begins. Fr. Joe will make that announcement if the emergency takes place during a service. We have waited quietly before in attentive prayerfulness. That is the best thing to do.

The Mission Council believes that our church has the essential items needed to respond to medical

emergencies. Will Pomeroy, a member of Grace and deputy mayor for Spring Hill, has reviewed our situation with emergency personnel at the city.

Our hope is that the only time someone looks in the first aid drawer is when they need a bandage. We want to be prepared for many possibilities. Additionally, I have been in touch with AA and the Crochet Club, the organizations that meet regularly at Grace, regarding emergency procedures. If you have any suggestions or questions about our emergency procedures, please reach out to me or Bill Rieger, junior warden.

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden

### **Poinsettias For Christmas**

It seems amazing that Advent is upon us. As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, the Altar/Flower Guild is requesting that in memory of those events and persons you will think of giving donations to our poinsettia fund. Twice a year at Easter and Christmas we ask for donations for the flowers that represent that season. It gives us time to memorialize those persons and events that mean so much to us. If you wish to do so, please leave whatever donation you might give either in the collection plate or give it directly to an Altar Guild member. If you write a check, please indicate that it is for the Poinsettia fund. Any amount is welcome. And to make sure that your remembrance is correct and in time for the Christmas Eve bulletin please contact Karyl Beal at [karylofcolumbia@cs.com](mailto:karylofcolumbia@cs.com) by December 15<sup>th</sup> if at all possible. You can also send it to me by that time to [icolmore@aol.com](mailto:icolmore@aol.com) or call me at 615-403-7498.

In Peace,

Linda Colmore, Altar/Flower Guild

### **The Story of an Advent Hymn**

Text: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin, ca. 9th century

Tune: Veni, Veni, Emmanuel; plainsong, ca. 15th century

This month, let's explore one of the oldest and greatest of all Advent hymns.

> The original text of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" was written in Latin in the 8th or 9th

century. Seven days before Christmas Eve, the monasteries would sing the seven O Antiphons in anticipation and preparation for Christmas Eve. The 8th antiphon would be sung on Christmas Eve, before and after the Magnificat. John Mason Neale (1818-1868), a translator of early Greek and Latin hymns (and a member of the Church of England), discovered this hymn in the appendix of an early 18th-century manuscript and included it in his *Mediaeval Hymns and Sequences* in 1851.

The O Antiphons are:

O Sapientia (Wisdom)

Adonai (the Hebrew name for God)

O Radix Jesse (stem or root of Jesse)

O Clavis David (Key of David)

O Oriens (Dayspring)

O Rex Gentium (King of the Gentiles)

O Emmanuel

If you put together the first letters of the second word of all the antiphon, you get the word SARCORE. Read backwards, you get a two-word acrostic, *Ero cras*, which is Latin for "I will be present tomorrow." The O Emmanuel was traditionally sung on the night before Christmas Eve. It reveals the meaning of the riddle by the completion of the acrostic.

Over the centuries there have been many textual variations, changes in the melody, and even the order of the stanzas. Despite the changes, the essence of the original text remains, and we continue to participate in an Advent ritual 11 centuries old.

Deanie Moore, Musical Director

### **Last Date for 2024 Contributions**

Sunday, Dec. 29 is the day that payments towards 2024 pledges must be submitted to be included as part of your 2024 giving. It would still be possible to make a contribution online through Tuesday, December 31. After that date, all contributions will be recorded as being given in the new year. Susan Browning, our financial administrator, needs to close the books for 2024 after that date.

Carol Martinez, Sr. Warden

Don't forget to buy food for  
The Well when you go to the  
store.



\*Approved Mission Council minutes and presented  
Treasurer's reports will be posted on Faith Hall  
bulletin board for more 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.  
Brian Klammer, Assist. Treas.  
James Dallas, Christian Ed. & Children's Ministry  
Charles Cochran, Community Outreach  
Susan Austin, Congregational Life

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

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

