

Grace Episcopal Church
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Grace Notes

Volume VIII, Issue 9
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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

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.

Oct. 23	Saint James of Jerusalem
October 26	Diocesan Day of Prayer
Nov. 1	All Saints' Day
Nov. 3	Fall Back Sunday
Nov. 3	All Saints' Sunday
Nov. 5	Election Day
Nov. 24	Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King Sunday
Nov. 27	Noon Service for Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day

Vicar's Vagaries **Kids Want to Know!**

1. Where does holy water come from?
2. What does baptism do?

Children ask great questions. Some children grow up and pretend that they don't have any more questions. Some children never stop asking questions. The greatest artists, scientists, philosophers, historians, and teachers were all children who kept on asking questions. It is a sacred obligation of adults to encourage children to continue to ask questions and to seek answers to their questions for the rest of their lives.

As I write this on Tuesday, October 8, I am in Faith Hall of Grace Church. I can look up from the table where I am sitting and see a posterboard tablet on the wall outside the children's classroom. At the top of the piece of paper is written, "Kids Want to Know???" Below are the two questions I listed above. I decided to have a go at coming up with an

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answer to these fine questions asked by one or more of the young seekers of wisdom in our church.

Where does Holy Water come from? Let's start with the font. You can find holy water in our font. We put it there so whenever you come into the church or leave, you can remember your baptism. If you like, you are invited to dip your finger into the water in the font and make the sign of the cross on yourself when you come in and when you go out.

The water in the font comes from blessed water that we store in the sacristy. That is the room where the altar guild does its work of setting up for our services and cleaning up afterwards. It is also where the priest and the lay Eucharistic minister and acolyte get vested before the service. I bless water in advance so we can always have some on hand to place in the font when the water dries up. When I bless the water, I say a brief version of the prayer on pp. 306-7 of the Book of Common Prayer. If you want to know where holy water comes from, you can't do much better than reading this prayer. I could write it out for you here, but then you wouldn't have much reason to look it up in the Prayer Book, so I am leaving you to do that.

Truly, holy water comes from God. A priest can't even bless water unless God blesses it through his or her prayer. To bless water is to give thanks to God for the gift of water. It is also to set it apart as a sign of God's mighty acts by which he has saved us throughout the history of the world. But now the answer to the first question is leading to the answer to the second question.

What does baptism do? These four simple words raise questions that could be answered by long books or even a shelf of long books in a seminary library. But our children do not deserve an answer that would bury them. They deserve a true but simple answer, which is a real challenge to come up with. To start with, you could read the prayer after baptism on p. 308 of the Book of Common Prayer. The main point is that God acts through baptism to wash a person clean of all sin, to make that person one of his children and a member of the Body of Christ, and to give that person the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is an outward and visible sign of our yielding up our lives as an offering to God, who receives our offering and gives our lives back to us with the gift of eternal life in his Son,

Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament in which God makes us his own sons and daughters.

All of this goes to show that you should always go to church because you never know what is going to happen when you walk in that door, even the door to the parish hall. God is always up to something in and through his Church. If you still have questions even after reading everything I have written to answer your questions, then God is up to something still in his Church, even if you are far from our church building when you read this. In your new questions, God is stirring you up so you will seek to know him and his truth better and better. I hope your questions never stop.

Father Joe

New Chasuble Arrives

Our new red chasuble has come in. It will be blessed at the 10:00 a.m. service on the Sunday after All Saints' Day, November 3, which will be our celebration of All Saints' Day. Our old chasuble, though Linda Colmore's repair work extended its life, was literally falling apart. Linda and I met together and selected this new chasuble from Almy, the Episcopal Church liturgical supplies store in the United States. We are blessed to be able to buy it with the money contributed in memory of my father, Maclin P. Davis, Jr., by members of our congregation and several friends and family members of my Dad's. I am deeply grateful to the congregation for their gifts to this fund and their support to me and my family at the time of his death in January of 2023.

We will use the red chasuble for Holy Week and on the weekday celebrations of martyrs, a group which includes most of the Apostles. We also use red for Pentecost.

Father Joe

Pt. I: On Prayer

On September 29, Fr. Joe preached about prayer. I heartily recommend that you listen to it, especially if you weren't with us that Sunday. Go to the Grace Facebook page and find the service on September 29. You may save time by going directly to minute 28 of the broadcast to hear the sermon.

Pt. II: How to Place People on the Prayer List

The prayer list that is read on Sundays is prepared by Fr. Joe and John Harvey with the help of Karyl Chastain Brazier. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please share the information with Fr. Joe and John.

Send them both an email, a text, or a written request. Please make sure your name is included with the request. Then we know who can answer questions about the person on the prayer list.

Thanks so much to John Harvey, Jerry Schmelzer, and Chuck Warnick for leading us through the prayers of the people during the service.

Our Daughters of the King also accept prayer requests. The group maintains a private prayer list that includes people who do not want their names read in church. They also pray for the people on the list that is read in church. Please reach out to Carolyn Warnick, Teri Mai, or Lynn Rieger with those requests.

We have heard many stories from people who thank the members of Grace for their prayers.

Keep on praying.

Carol Martinez, Senior Warden

Our Favorite Hymns

One of my favorite things to do is to talk with people about their favorite hymns. Many times, it has to do with family connections—it was a favorite of their parents or grandparents, or there is another connection to family.

A particular favorite of Diann Schneider's is "God of Our Fathers," on page 718 of our hymnal. She asks for it every year around the time of her birthday, and I am happy to oblige!

The text was written by Daniel Crane Roberts, who was born in Long Island, NY in 1841, and died in Concord, NH in 1907. He was educated at Kenyon College in Ohio, and served in the Union army during the Civil War. Ordained an Episcopal priest in 1866, he ministered to several congregations in Vermont and Massachusetts. In 1878 he began a 23-year ministry at St. Paul's Church in Concord.

The year 1876 was the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence, and this hymn was written for that occasion. It was originally sung to the tune RUSSIAN HYMN, and was first sung at Brandon, VT at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The tune we now use is called NATIONAL HYMN, It was composed by George William Warren in 1892.

The most prominent feature is the glorious opening trumpet fanfare, which calls us to praise. This hymn puts God first and is addressed to Him as a prayer for the nation. Unlike many nationalist hymns, this one keeps our focus on God.

If you have a favorite hymn, please don't be shy about requesting it. I would love to hear your story, and make sure we sing the hymns you love!

Deanie Moore

Musical Director

Pledges, This Year and Next

Third quarter giving statements have gone out now. If you didn't get yours or there need to be corrections, please contact our financial administrator, Susan Browning, at office@grace4sh.org. As we head towards year end, please be mindful of keeping your pledge paid up, if you are able. We give thanks that our unpledged giving has exceeded expectations. Pledged giving is a bit behind, and we know that some members will not be able to complete their 2024 pledges.

The 2025 stewardship campaign will begin on November 3. On the 3rd, 10th, and 17th, a church member will give a brief talk on stewardship over God's gifts to us and what being part of Grace Church means to him or her. Historically, these talks have been personal, humorous, serious, practical, imaginative, honest, and inspiring. We hope to have all the pledges in by November 24, Christ the King Sunday.

Pledge cards will be sent out soon. They will also be available at the church. Any member of the mission council can help you get one. You may also pledge online after Tuesday, October 22 at graceepiscopalspringhill.org/.

Fr. Joe

Diocesan Day of Prayer
Saturday, October 26

After considering different possibilities, our mission council agreed to ask our members to join the Diocesan Day of Prayer on the diocesan Facebook page for 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer.

(See facebook.com/episcopaldioceseoftennessee/.)

To coordinate your other prayer time that day with members of Grace, you may sign up for a 30-minute slot between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on the Day of Prayer signup sheet on the bulletin board in Faith Hall.

After the service of Morning Prayer, I myself will be meditating on selected prayers in the Book of Common Prayer on pp. 814-819. These pages include excellent prayers for the Church, for peace among nations, for our enemies, for the diocese, for the parish (congregation), and for the Human Family. Maybe you would like to do the same. I will also be praying for the outcome of our elections on November 5.

Fr. Joe

79 lbs. of food were donated to The Well in September. Don't forget to buy food for The Well when you go to the store.



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

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

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



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