

Celebrating 120 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – February 2022

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Vicar's Vision

I am not a big Facebook fan, but I do love the fact that they remind you of birthdays for friends far and near and give you the opportunity to send some birthday love. When I send birthday greetings, I typically include something like, "Happy Birthday, Joe. May this new year bring lots of joy your way."

It feels like joy is in short supply these days. As Covid lingers on and rears its ugly head with new strands challenging our planning and in person gatherings, with the dangerous and divisive vitriol over mandates, politics and a myriad of other topics, and very cold snowy winter weather we are all worn thin and might I say cranky.

Blessedly, however, joy can come find us. In the midst of these challenging times joy continues to seek us out and surprise us in ways we had not even imagined.

I found a new obsession. My friend Carrie recommended it to me when I was laid low with Covid. It is an Apple TV series called Ted Lasso. As the series unfolds, it becomes clear that Ted Lasso inhabits a world where people and relationships matter most, where moral character rises far above the ugliness that has come to define so much of our current human interactions, and where kindness and compassion are more important than winning. And he invites others to join him.

More often than not when I watch TV at night my wonderful companion, Finn, comes and cuddles up next to me on the sofa and I settle into a blissful moment of joy. Somehow, I am reminded over and over again that I can find joy in the simple things; a call from a friend, a homecooked meal, a visit from my son, and the list goes on and on.

This Christmas was one for the joy books for me, and I hope for us as a Church Community. We reached out our arms of love with the children and families in our neighborhood and shared of our bounty. It was clear to me that the one who benefited most from this act of love was me. The joy I found was a gift from God and I remembered, once again, that God never ceases to bring joy to each of us.

With Love,
Anne+



Junior Warden's Report

Grace Church did not host any Blue Jeans Saturdays during January. The weather was way too cold and snowy for any outdoor projects. With any luck, February will be warmer and our new Tupelo tree will be planted in the front church yard.

This January marks the end of my term on Vestry. I look forward to working with the incoming Junior Warden on some of our continuing projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Byerly



ECW Meditation

Before we say Good-bye to 2021, I wanted to update you on a few things. At the Christmas Party we voted to give proceeds from our bake sale to:

- Viva Voce--\$100
- ECW Diocesan Gifts and Scholarship Fund- (in memory of Eleanor Cary) --\$100
- Greene Alliance ---\$200
- Woman's Club Scholarship Fund---\$300
- Ministerial Assn. Scholarship Fund---\$300

After the vote we had a few anonymous donors that made additional gifts to the Ministerial Scholarship Fund.

The total amount sent to the Ministerial Association was \$1,000!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our outreach mission!

Thank you to Julie Winslow for hosting our Christmas Potluck Party!
Good food, good friends, good time!

Jackson-Feild Home

Thank you for donating Christmas gifts to the boys and girls at Jackson-Feild.

Tod Balsbaugh with Jackson-Feild asked me to convey his heart-felt thanks to all of the members of ECW.

Tod submitted an article to the Greene County Record regarding our 25+ years of helping Jackson-Feild.

Be on the look-out for the article!

YDC Snacks

Heather Meyers has asked for our help to provide healthy snacks for the YDC afterschool program.

If you would like to participate, please let me know and I will coordinate with Heather on available dates.

The New Year will bring many joys and challenges! With God's help, the Episcopal Church Women of Grace will continue to love each other, this community, and our neighbors far and wide.

With gratitude and thanks for each of you,
Jeannie



Outreach

Plans In Progress

The church being closed leaves plenty of time to write and phone plans for outreach. We communicate with Faye Anderson to explore possibilities of Virginia Cooperative Extension programs for the Unity Garden, Sunday outdoor Tastings, Community learning activities, and even Youth Development Council (YDC).

YDC wants to thank Grace Church for its support. The finances have allowed after-school programs at NGES and WMMS for 48 children. Special emphasis on character building and positive problem solving helps their attitudes and academics while in school or in quarantine.

Greg Kula, Bert, and I are arranging a schedule for seed-starting under grow lights. If you have any questions about how you can help, please contact me at 434-985-2402. (See additional garden information on page 4 below.)

Thank you,
Barbara Nye

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 30th we will hold our Annual Meeting for Grace Church. This meeting and our worship will be in person this Sunday. As is our custom we will approve our Annual Budget, elect new Vestry and reflect on the past year and welcome plans for 2022. We must have quorum to accomplish this work so your attendance is very important.

Sunday School

January 30th will also start our Sunday school for the year. We are so grateful to Melissa Sysling, Donna Mawyer and Bert and Barbara Nye for their love and care for the children who join us each week for some spiritual growth and building community.

Thursdays @ Grace

We will start back with Thursdays at Grace on February 3. This is a weekly opportunity for the children in the neighborhood to come and hang out at Grace from 4:00 to 5:30, share a snack, play some games and get some help with schoolwork if they need it. We are always looking for volunteers to come and spend an hour and a half with the kids.

The Bishop Is Coming

Sunday, February 6th Bishop Ted Gulick will be with us for worship. The Bishop will receive Lenny Grasso into the Episcopal Church and offer the opportunity for all of us to renew our own Baptismal Vows. If covid numbers allow, we will host a reception in the Parish Hall after the service.

Looking Ahead

March 2nd marks the beginning of the Lenten Season with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm with the Imposition of Ashes.

We will have several opportunities to dive deeper into Lent as a community. And don't forget our Annual "LENT MADNESS" thriller to award the Golden Halo for 2022 to one of our deserving Saints in our history.

Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible Study will be an opportunity to walk our way through the Book of Exodus. As a guide we will use the book, "Founding God's Nation; through Exodus" by Leon Kass. The Book can be purchased through Amazon. We will begin this study the first week of Lent on a Tuesday evening.



Bell Choir

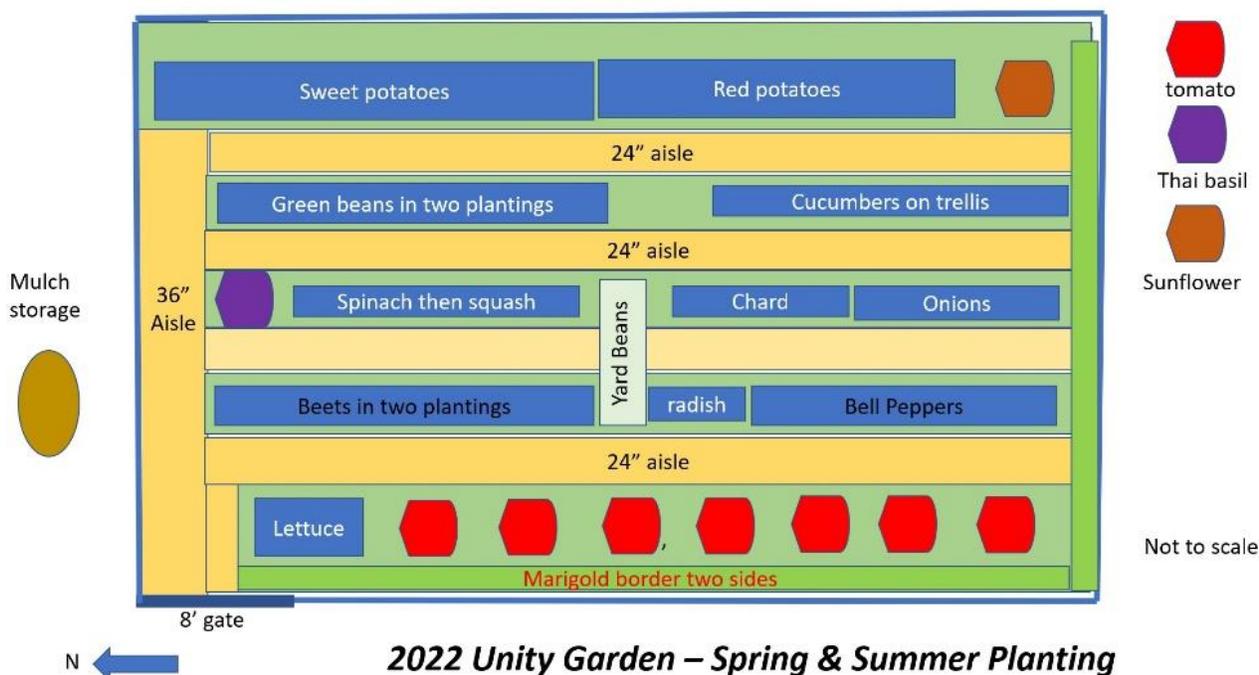
There is no perfect time for practice. We have tried many. We are hoping the third time is a charm.

Through the months of February and March we will practice on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 and be done by 6:00.

We hope this might encourage new folks who have considered ringing the bells to put this on their weekly calendars.

Unity Garden Strategy for 2022

1. Concentrate on the specific varieties of crops people actually consumed. Don't plant multiple varieties of beans, for example. Limit tomato varieties to apricot and then large slicing tomatoes like from the "Boys" family.
2. Do not plant peas as the yield is low and there seems to be no interest.
3. Experiment with red and sweet potatoes in the wide "squash" row.
4. Plant squash to replace spinach.
5. Install rugged cages when planting squash. Stake as required.
6. Plant Zinnias, etc outside the garden.
7. Use the compact sowing method with green beans and onions. (beans: 6" spacing, 4 wide, repeated.) Install perimeter fence on row edges.
8. Offer the garden as a teaching venue for 4H, School AG, VA Extension.
9. Install a "UNITY GARDEN" sign board above the gate to prevent deer from jumping in.
10. Consider electrifying the second wire from the bottom as well, to discourage rabbits, etc.
11. Consider garden cloth over vulnerable crops like beans to reduce insects.
12. Consider September/October re-plantings of spinach, lettuce, kale to replace green beans.
13. Plant seedless watermelon, pumpkin, and cantaloupe in May.
14. Marigolds only on Ford Ave and Main Street sides
15. Put together a planting/harvesting time line for each specific variety we chose to plant.
16. Early planting in March/April: Spinach, beets, lettuce, radish



**† Birthdays, Baptisms, &
Anniversaries †
February 2022**

Let us give thanks and praise to God for these special days in the life of our parish family members and friends.

Birthdays

- 01 Whit Brinkley
- 05 Daniel Thomas
- 06 Angelo Lagana
- 07 Ann McDaniel
- 10 RE Hutton
- 13 Sean Thomas
- 16 Rev. Jane Piver



Anniversaries

- 06 Rev. Jane's Ordination (2001)
- 17 Rev. Grace's Ordination (1990)

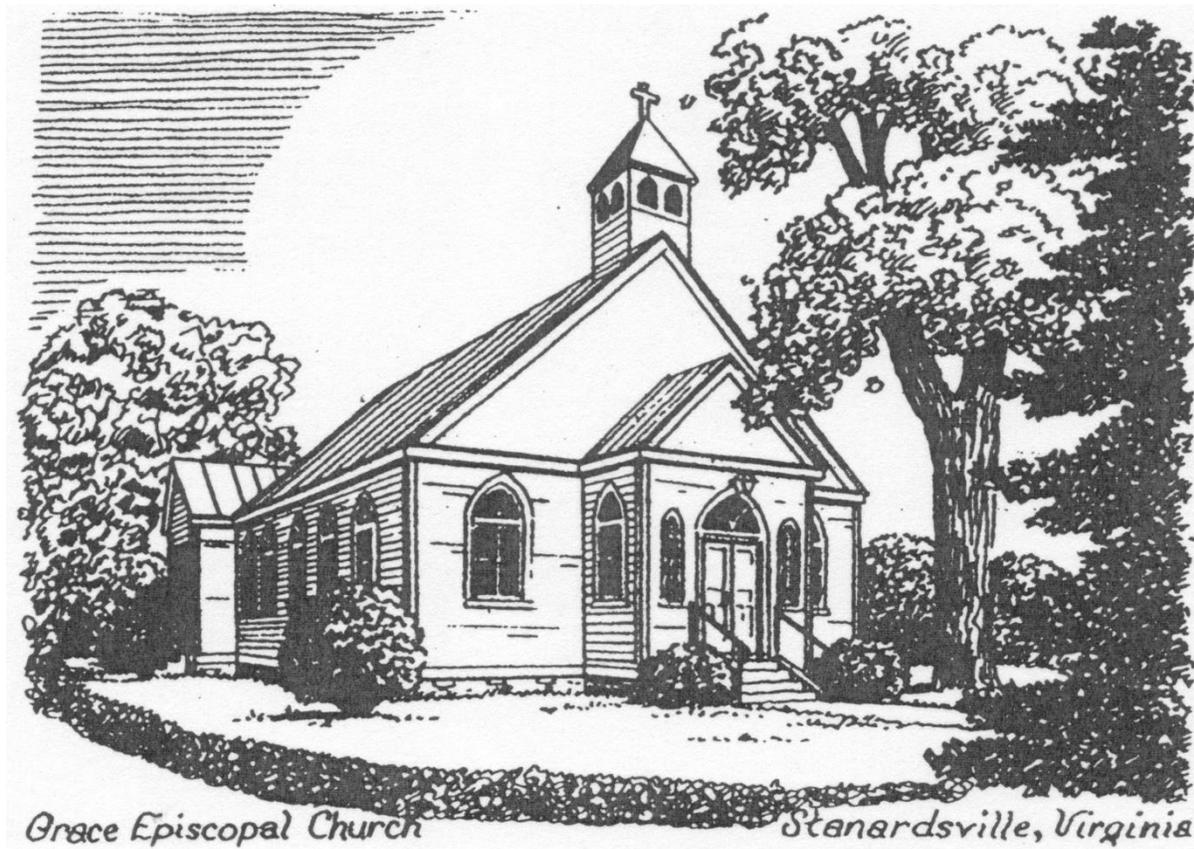
Baptisms

- 11 Jane Piver
Abigail Grace Morris
- 12 Lou Hatter
- Matthew Fickes



On the first Sunday of each month, we will invite anyone with a birthday that month to come forward during the service for a prayer and blessing.

It is tradition to put an offering in the Church bank for the number of years you are celebrating.



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