



Celebrating 120 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – November 2021

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Vicar's Vision

I am sure I have shared some of this story with you before, but felt it was the right time to revisit these simple thoughts on Stewardship.

I remember the first time my Sam made some money babysitting for friends. Scott shared with him in a conversation that it was a good idea to return to God a portion of his earnings. He told him that scripture spoke of a tithe. He said that meant for every dollar he earned he would give 10 cents to the Church. I will forever remember the sparkle in his eyes and the look on his face, "That means I get to keep 90 cents? I like that deal dad!"

What is the right amount to give to the church? I honestly don't have a simple answer. I know that with some of my giving I get my name on a list if I give above a certain amount. That motivates some to stretch their giving to get on the list. We don't have such a list at Church. The reward you receive in giving a meaningful gift to your church is knowing that you have contributed what you could to a community that offers all it has to everyone regardless of what they are able to give.

Who could have foreseen the crazy year and a half we have endured. We had to fundamentally change much of how we worshipped, fellowshiped and served. And through it all you have continued to faithfully care for, pray for and

love each other. I trust that God will encourage us in 2022 to dream big, find spiritual growth and seek new and wondrous ways to serve our community. Your pledge has never been more important as we move forward into 2022.

As far as I can recall the only person Jesus praised for her giving was the poor widow. The story says that Jesus praised her because he watched many people give great sums for the temple ministry but he knew that those large sums were just a small portion of what they had. The poor widow gave abundantly out of the little she had.

What I know for sure is that God will not love you more if you give more, or less if you have less to give. God loves you unconditionally. Your pledge to the church is your way of loving God back. I find that compelling and full of possibility.

Amidst all the conversation out there today about the church and shrinking numbers and the need to change, I am still convinced that at the heart of a world that can feel weary the church is here to love, heal, feed, and serve. We are here to share God's love and that should never change.

Shalom,
Anne+

Unity Garden

John 21:25 NKJV “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”

The Apostle John’s statement at the end of his Gospel comes to mind as I try to compile a succinct article to let Grace Church know what God’s been doing at the Unity Garden and in the neighborhood.

Ask Greg about the cold weather crops he planted.

See how Bert has pulled out all the dead stalks leaving only beans and peppers that are still producing. Sky Muller can tell you about her Mexican Sunflower seed project and her improving health. In addition, if you have some time to spare, have a conversation with Jean Byerly about her plans for the pear tree and the area between the garden and Gloria’s fence. Don’t forget to glean information from her and Betty Moreland about their kids on bicycles or horses. Give me a chance to fill in details about how Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and William Monroe High School Agriculture Program are actively involved. Come to a Unity Garden gathering on Sundays at Noon and “...taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8) Of course, look for yourself at the beautiful, sturdy, and useful Activity Shed and say “Thank you” to yourself for your generosity. Rejoice in the successes God has orchestrated!
Barbara Nye



ECW MEDITATION

YDC Snacks

Thank you to all who signed up to provide snacks for the YDC after school program. We've provided snacks 10 times this semester.

We will continue to help with snacks next semester. If you were not able to help this time around there will be more opportunities in the new year.

Heather Meyers sends a big "Thank You!"

Jackson-Feild Home

I received an email from Tod Balsbaugh, VP of Advancement, asking us if we would like to help again with gifts for the children at the Jackson-Feild Homes. Here is a portion of his letter.

I am contacting you on behalf of the children at Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services to request the help of the ECW at Grace once again this year.

Your generosity and kindness has made Christmas special for our children, many who never had a real Christmas.

I would recommend collecting the same items you have collected in the past which has included sweatpants, underwear boys and girls, socks, slides, sweat shirts, and hoodies in assorted sizes ranging from medium to 2XL with the most being large, We always can use new or used puzzles, games, teen magazines and teen books. Thank you for your outstanding support of our children over the years.

Please consider buying a gift to donate to the boys and girls.

Giving Thanks Gathering/Christmas Pot-Luck Party

We will hopefully have a get together for the holidays!

We need to decide which organizations to support with the money we made from our Fantastic Bake Sale!

I hope that we can all share some "Thankful" stories from our time apart because of the pandemic. We will enjoy food, fellowship, and fun too!

We will also collect the Jackson-Feild gifts at that time.

We are looking at dates to (hopefully) meet. Julie Winslow has once again graciously opened her home to our gathering.

Look for a special email that will be coming with more information.

Blessings!

Jeannie



Other News

Advent will soon be here and it is time to revamp our handmade Advent Wreaths for our homes. Join us Sunday, November 28th to make one. It will be accompanied by a booklet with some great ways to set the Advent season apart and be intentional as we wait for the birth of Christ.

Just remember.....

For anyone out there who thinks they have arrived, that this is where the life journey has taken them, I have bold and affirming words to share.

They are the words of a song from my new favorite music artist, Jason Gray. The title of the song is ***Becoming***.

*I am miles from where I was
Yet so far from where I wanna be
With each step I learn to trust
The maker is still making me*

*It's progress, not perfection
Not arrival, it's direction
It's the living and the learning
Not the finish line but the journey*

I am becoming

A life in Christ is never complete; we are always on the journey. That is good news, my friends.

Blessings,

Anne+

Neighborhood Brunch October 30, 2021

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" "For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, 'Peace be within you.'"

Psalm 122:1 and 8

With joy, Grace Episcopal Church opened its doors of fellowship for a long-awaited Neighborhood Brunch. "Celebration" was the theme as neighbors gathered for brunch fare such as biscuits and sausage gravy, bacon and eggs, casseroles of vegetables baked in tasty sauces, fresh fruit cups, and of course, coffee served to individual tastes.

Families gathered to celebrate the bounty of relationships built around the Unity Garden with its Sunday "Tastes of ____!" Children shared their progress in learning to bicycle safely and care for their bikes. They told of improving their reading and math skills. Everyone seemed to enjoy choosing their favorite foods from the printed menus.

Calendars were provided so people could save the dates of upcoming brunches in 2022: January 29, April 30, July 30, October 29 and December 31.



Bishops' Meditations

The weekly meditations of the bishops in our diocese are available to all to access online. You can find them by following either of the links below.

[The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia \(thediocese.net\)](https://www.thediocese.net) Click on the "Subscribe" button.

[News Room | The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia \(thediocese.net\)](https://www.thediocese.net/newsroom)

**† Birthdays, Baptisms, &
Anniversaries †
November 2021**

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

Birthdays



- 04 James Koontz
- 05 Berowne Paradis
- 06 Alexandra McElroy
- 07 Martha Morris
- 10 Mary Kates
- 17 Charlie Hatter
Judy Painter
- 19 Jean Byerly
- 21 Zachary Wright
- 25 Bobby McDaniel
- 26 Ryan Miller
- 27 Lou Hatter
- 30 Andrew Byerly

Anniversaries



- 17 Joel & Gwen Atwood
- 25 Andy & Jean Byerly
Don & Minna Doyle
- 28 Lenny Grasso & Kley Todd
- 29 Bert & Barbara Nye

Baptisms

- 03 Henry Morris
- 05 Phoebe Morris
- 09 Bobby Winslow
- 11 Ron Morris



Lay Participation Schedule for November 2021

| | 11/07 24th Sunday after Pentecost | 11/14 25th Sunday after Pentecost | 11/21 Last Sunday after Pentecost <i>Christ the King</i> | 11/28 1st Sunday of Advent |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| | All Saints Celebrated | | | |
| <u>1st Lesson</u> | Isaiah 25:6-9 | 1 Samuel 1:4-20 | 2 Samuel 23:1-7 | Jeremiah 33:14-16 |
| <u>Psalm</u> | 24 | 1 Samuel 2:1-10 | 132: 1-19 | 25:1-9 |
| <u>2nd Lesson</u> <i>Not for MP</i> | Revelation 21:1-6a | Hebrews 10:11-25 | Revelation 1:4b-8 | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 |
| <u>Gospel</u> | John 11:32-44 | Mark 13:1-8 | John 18:33-37 | Luke 21:25-36 |
| | | | | |
| Ministry | 10:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 10:00 AM |
| | <i>Morning Prayer</i> | <i>Holy Eucharist</i> | <i>Morning Prayer</i> | <i>Holy Eucharist</i> |
| | | | | |
| <u>LEM</u> | ---- | Ann Mingledorff | ---- | Mary Hogge |
| <u>Acolyte</u> | Jean Byerly | ---- | Ron Morris | ---- |
| <u>Lector</u> | Gwen Atwood | Linda Robbins | Scott Mingledorff | Mary Hogge |
| <u>Intercessor</u> | Julie Winslow | Jeannie Palin | Mary Hogge | Ann Mingledorff |
| <u>Usher</u> | Larry Meslar | Scott Mingledorff | Ann Mingledorff | Scott Winslow |
| <u>Coffee Hour</u> | (Dalton) | (West) | (Nye) | (Morris) |
| <u>Altar Guild</u> | Jenny Morris | Jenny Morris | Jenny Morris | Jenny Morris |
| | | | | |

Annual Picnic 2021



Grace Church partnered with Piedmont Episcopal to celebrate Holy Eucharist at Graves Chapel on Sunday, October 3rd. God blessed us with a gorgeous day and we sat out under the trees for the service, followed by a scrumptious picnic lunch. Music was provided by a blend of musicians from Grace and Piedmont and it was lovely. There were about 45 people in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time singing, praying, rejoicing, eating, and getting to know one another. We sincerely hope we will be able to do this again, and not wait for another year to go by! Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this happen and most of all, Thanks be to God!!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED