



## Celebrating 120 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – October 2021

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### A Meditation by Bishop Porter Taylor

#### **Humility — Kindness — Justice: A Rearranged Sequence**

*“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” - Micah 6:8*

I have read, meditated, taught, and preached on this passage many times, but it is only recently that I am beginning to understand what it has to teach me.

First, all three qualities must go together. If you do justice without kindness or humility, you are capable of being incredibly self-righteous as well as doing harm. If you do kindness without the other two, you will be nice, but ineffectual. Likewise, if you are humble without kindness or justice, you will devolve into a private ineffectual life.

Second, in my life, I have discovered that I need to reverse the sequence of this list because if I begin with doing justice, there's a danger I never get to kindness or humility. I become a “Christian soldier marching on to war.” I focus on my own self-righteousness and can fall into a smugness about having the right vision for how everyone else should change their lives.

Therefore, we begin with humility. Bill W., one of the founders of A.A., wrote, “It was only by repeated humiliations that we were forced to learn something about humility. Where humility

had formerly stood for a forced feeding of humble pie, it now begins to mean the nourishing ingredient which gives serenity.”

When we are humble, we realize we don't have the answers, but through God's grace we are connected to the One who is the answer. It's why we walk humbly with our God. Humility reminds us that all of us are on a journey, and, therefore, our calling is not to blaze our own trail but to align ourselves with God's desire for this broken world. We don't need to be experts in how to fix the world; we need to be faithful people walking together in The Way. Norene Vest wrote that humility is “facing the truth about our human condition, accepting our limitations, and cheerfully depending on God.” If we cheerfully depend on God, we surrender our self-righteousness and get out of the answer business and into to the disciple business.

Humility enables us to love kindness because we have moved away from our egocentric pose to trusting in God and opening up to God's mercy. The Hebrew word for “loving kindness” is “*chesed*” which means, giving oneself fully, with love and compassion. In the film “Dead Man Walking”, Sister Helen Prejean says to a man on death row: “I'll be the face of love for you,” and she is. She reminds him that he is as a child of God regardless of his actions. This is why humility is the doorway to kindness. As the poet says, “Before you can know what kindness really is/ you must lose things/, feel the future dissolve

in a moment/ like salt in a weakened broth.” (Naomi Shihab Nye, “Kindness”). Kindness enables us to realize that all of the gifts in our lives are grace and that everyone is a child of God worthy of our respect and attention.

Then we can do justice. Walter Brueggemann defines justice this way: “Justice is to sort out what belongs to whom and to return it to them.... So, God’s justice has a dynamic, transformative quality. It causes things to change, and it expects things must need to change if there is to be abundant life” (“Voices of the Night—Against Justice” in *To Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly*). Of course, justice is disruptive. Brueggemann goes on to observe that the work of justice is meant “to disrupt and dismantle the current ordering of things.” However, he adds that because God is “marked by steadfast love, compassion, faithfulness...God makes justice possible because there is a beginning again.”

As agents of justice, we must not only begin with humility and then turn to kindness as we engage this work, but we must also realize that this is a cycle that repeats itself over and over again. The work of justice is always about mutual conversion. It’s about knowing deep in our hearts that “All things come from Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee” and therefore a reallocation becomes possible.

Yes, let us be agents of justice, but let us realize at its root it’s about communal conversion. Perhaps beginning with walking humbly; then embracing loving kindness will enable us to do the crucial work of justice.



### **Annual Picnic**

I do hope you will plan to join us for our Annual Picnic!

We will gather with the good folks from Graves Chapel and Piedmont Parish at 10:00 am for worship followed by a time of food and

fellowship. The churches will provide fried chicken, drinks and all the paper products. We ask you to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

The address for Graves Chapel is  
104 Bluff Mountain Road,  
Graves Mill (Madison) VA 22727.

Parking will be across the road from the chapel. Someone will be there to help direct you to a parking space.

### **Junior Warden’s Report**

We have exciting news! A tree has been selected to grace the front yard of Grace Church. I am grateful for the conversations with our parishioners, tree professionals, and members of the community who shared their thoughts with me. Many varieties of trees and selection criteria were considered before deciding on the Black Gum, also known as Tupelo. This is a beautiful, native tree that is hardy and has multi-season interest. The Black Gum was the top recommendation from our area’s extension agent for forestry and coincidentally was chosen as the tree of the month for [Arbor Day’s September/October issue](#). Those of you who spend time at The Center at Belvedere in Charlottesville, may have noticed the striking Black Gum trees planted near the building there. Another attractive Black Gum is located behind The Barn at Edgewood. The Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards include a Black Gum on their Driving Tour of Charlottesville’s Notable Trees. There is no way of predicting the exact shape & size of the tree or controlling how the tree will grow. Similar to the way a child grows, each tree is unique, and while having characteristics of its parents, there is no way to know exactly how it will mature. This is part of the beauty of inviting one of God’s majestic creations to live alongside our lovely and holy sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Byerly

## Grace Church's Giving Campaign for 2021



*"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above..."*

*James 1:17*

Plan to join us Sunday, October 31 for our Forum to learn more about our campaign and goals, and hear from some of your fellow parishioners.

YES!, we will have a Butterfly craft for you to take home



### ECW News and Notes

On Saturday September 18th the Episcopal Church Women held their bake sale at the Greene County Farmers market. What a wonderful day we had! Thank you to everyone who was able to help. We made over \$700! The proceeds will go to our outreach objectives. We will meet soon to discuss and decide which organizations will receive our support.

### YDC After School Snacks

Heather Meyer has asked if the ECW would like to help with after school snacks for the YDC program. I have told her we would be able to help 2 or 3 times a month. If you would like to participate, please let me know and I will coordinate with Heather. In the past we have provided healthy snacks such as fruit, muffins, yogurt, cheese and crackers, milk, and homemade treats. The snacks are very much appreciated.

### Diocesan ECW Fall Meeting

On Saturday, October 30, the Diocesan ECW will have an in-person and virtual meeting for its Fall gathering. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

### OCTOBER

Be present.  
Let the day flow with grace.  
Expect joy.  
Serve with compassion.  
Speak only kindness.  
Impart love.  
Never forget you're not alone.  
Give thanks for everything.  
See goodness in others.

With thanks and gratitude for all of you!  
Jeannie



### Unity Garden

Grace Church's Storage Shed for garden and field activities, tools, and equipment was delivered October 1, 2021. The sturdy new Shed has room for gardening equipment, supplies and tools. To help install hangers or build a ramp, call Bert at (410) 570-4795.

Also, materials for the Sunday "Taste of Unity" will be stored and readily available. Tables and chairs, croquet and cornhole can be set up for other outdoor activities.



You can help with fall tasks such as pulling up spent plants, spreading mulch and readying the garden for its winter nap on Tuesday and Friday mornings, weather-permitting. For other days or exact times call Barbara Nye at (410) 596-8184.



October is time for harvesting the last of the watermelon, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and green beans. The Asian Yard Beans are fun to pick as you stand under the archway where they grow over one of the walkways.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Nye

## Bishop Search Committee

In early October the Bishop Search Committee will conduct **virtual listening sessions** to give parishioners an opportunity to share your hopes for our new bishop. The schedule for the listening sessions will be as follows:

- Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m.

For now, please mark your calendar. A sign-up for each virtual listening session will be coming soon! And please continue to pray for us!



## FAB – Ford Avenue Bikers

FAB has had two fabulous outings in the last two weeks. We made a trip to the Blue Ridge School and enjoyed their trails on foot, followed by a trip to Maybelle's for the best ice cream in Greene County. Maybe by this time next year we'll be able to tackle the BRS trails on bicycles. We also took a preview trip to Graves Chapel and rode up to one of the entrances to the Shenandoah National Park. Betty Moreland was our fearless leader while I kept an eye on those at the end of the pack. Afterward, we enjoyed a tailgate with fried chicken from the Wolftown Mercantile Country Store, grapes, and watermelon. The FAB riders have been invited to join the Tour de Greene as the riders start their routes out of downtown Stanardsville on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Byerly

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

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

**Birthdays**



- 05 Laura Palin  
Kathy Hatter
- 16 Ann Marie Fickes
- 17 Marilee Newman
- 27 Roy Dye

**Anniversaries**



- 05 Carlyle & Lisa Hystad
- 10 Phil & Jeannie Palin
- 14 Zack & Lizzie Frankland
- 17 Ron & Jenny Morris

**Baptisms**

- 01 Charlie Hatter
- 10 Phil Palin
- 21 Debra Stohlman
- 22 Amy Jo Sacra  
Joe Winslow





*Episcopal Church Women*  
THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

*“The Beloved Community”*

**131st Fall Meeting and 132<sup>nd</sup> UTO Ingathering**  
**“Proclaiming the Dream: Sharing the Faith of Jesus”**

**Date/Time:** October 30, 2021 \*\*\* 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Epiphany Episcopal Church, 8000 Hermitage Road, Richmond, VA 23228

*In person gathering for those fully vaccinated and wearing masks.*

A virtual meeting via Zoom is provided for those who cannot attend in person.

**Special Guest: The Rev. Dr. John Kinney, Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for African American Pentecostalism and Leadership Development**

9:30	Registration, Gathering and light breakfast
10:00	Business meeting with election of new members of the ECW Board Appointment of the next ECW President by the Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
11:00	“Proclaiming the Dream: Sharing the Faith of Jesus,” Rev. Dr. John Kinney
11:30	Installation of new officers/lunch Blessing
11:45	Adjourn and Break
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Worship Service led by Bishop Goff and the Very Rev. Kim Coleman/ECW Chaplain.



*Please register early by mail or online, but no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>.*

In thanksgiving for all who have helped to facilitate this meeting, please help to compensate them fairly. The registration fee is \$30.00. If you are attending in person, please add \$12.00 for lunch.

Checks made out to ECW/Diocese of Virginia should be received by the ECW treasurer by October 15 so that you may receive your confirmation or link to join online if you are not attending in person.

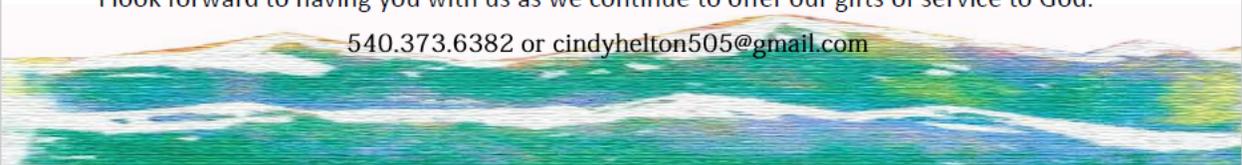
**Mail checks to: Kaaron Austin, 7319 Willson Road, Henrico VA 23231.**

**Online registration and payment:** Click on the link below and follow the prompts. After registering and submitting your registration fee, you will receive a confirmation or a link to join the ECW Fall Meeting.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/proclaiming-the-dream-sharing-the-faith-of-jesus-ecw-2021-fall-meeting-tickets-168978006767>

I look forward to having you with us as we continue to offer our gifts of service to God.

540.373.6382 or cindyhelton505@gmail.com

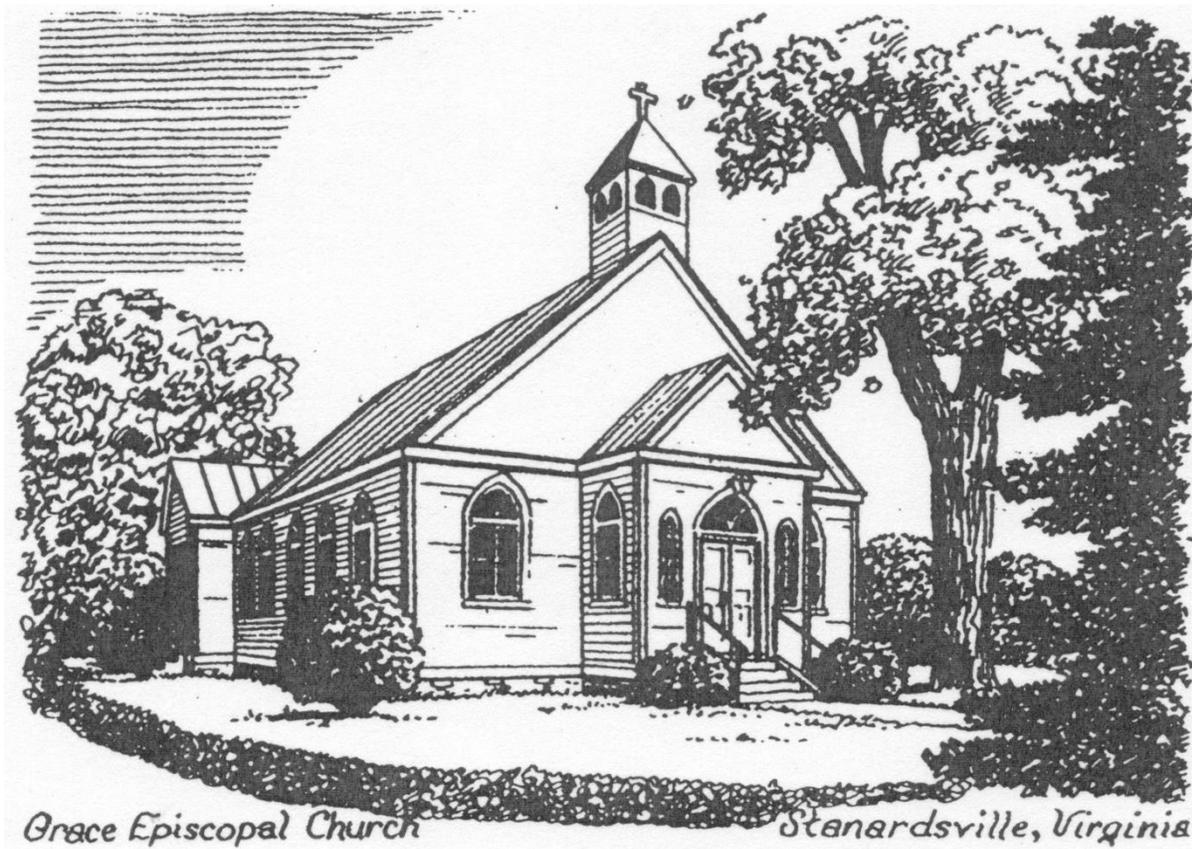


## Lay Participation Schedule for October 2021

	<b>10/03 19th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>10/10 20th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>10/17 21st Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>10/24 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>10/31 23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>
<u>1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</u>	Job 1:1, 2:1-10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Job 38:1-7, 34-41	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	Ruth 1:1-18
<u>Psalm</u>	26	22: 1-15	104: 1-9, 25, 37b	34: 1-8, 19-22	146
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u>	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Hebrews 4:12-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 7:23-28	Hebrews 9:11-14
<u>Gospel</u>	Mark 10:2-16	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:35-45	Mark 10:46-52	Mark 12:28-34
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>				
	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist w/baptism</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
<u>LEM</u>	Ron Morris	Linda Robbins	Larry Meslar	Mary Hogge	Pat Peck
<u>Acolyte</u>	----	----	----	----	----
<u>Lector</u>	Pat Peck	Ann Mingledorff	Betty Moreland	Ron Morris	Jeannie Palin
<u>Intercessor</u>	Jeannie Palin	Linda Robbins	Pat Peck	Betty Moreland	Jenny Morris
<u>Usher</u>	Scott Mingledorff	Larry Meslar	Linda Robbins	Lou Hatter	Mary Hogge
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<i>PICNIC</i>	(Meslar/Robbins)	(Atwood)	(Estes)	(McDaniel/Potter)
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Jeannie Palin Judy Estes				

Please note that the service on 10/03 will be at **Graves Chapel** followed by our annual picnic.

We will not have Coffee Hour fellowship time in the Parish Hall after the service at this time.



Grace Episcopal Church  
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**