



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 18, Casanova, Virginia 20139

(540) 788-4419

May 2009



Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

As I write this, we have just come through a glorious celebration of Easter and are preparing for the Annual Spring Roast Beef Dinner; our big events for April this year. So now let's look ahead to May.

I know for some, the Gold Cup is a huge local event and this year's Kentucky Derby holds the possibility of a local horse winning. But I was thinking more along the lines of life at Grace. Bishop Lee was scheduled to pay us a visit on Sunday May 10 at 3 in the afternoon (aka Mother's Day). Since we have no one to be confirmed, the Vestry and I agreed that we would offer him the afternoon off to spend with his own wife that day if he wished. He was thrilled. It's nice that we can do something good for our bishop who has been good to us.

The other big day on the calendar is the Feast of Pentecost which will be May 31st this year. It is always a big day liturgically in the church but doesn't have the same appeal to the larger population that Christmas and Easter have. No one I know goes home to fix a huge Pentecost dinner with all the trimmings, which should include barley and wheat, if you did. (More about that later). In fact, if you asked the average Joe on the street about it, he would probably shrug his shoulders if asked about Pentecost. So why do we celebrate it? What is it and what does it mean for us?

You probably know the most obvious answer. Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is commemorated as the

birthday of the Christian church, and the beginning of the church's mission to the world. Pentecost is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter. What you may not know is that Pentecost originated as the Jewish festival of Shavuot. The word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word for "fifty days" and came seven weeks and a day after the Feast of Passover. "Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD" (Lev. 23:16). *Shavuot*, the last of the pilgrimage festivals, as figured from the beginning of the Jewish year (not our calendar year), falls seven weeks after Passover, at the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest. Deut. 16:10 describes this occasion as the Festival of Weeks (Heb. Shavuot), as counted by the seven weeks, and as the occasion on which new grain and new fruits are offered to the priests in the Temple.

Shavuot is sometimes called the Festival of First Fruits (Heb. Bikkurim) because the farmers of Israel would begin their spring harvests with the barley crop at Passover. The harvest continued for seven weeks as the other crops and fruits began to ripen. As each fruit ripened, the first of each type would not be eaten but instead the farmer would tie a ribbon around the branch. This ribbon signified that these fruits were Bikkurim, or the first fruits.

At Shavuot the farmers would gather the Bikkurim into baskets and bring them to the city of Jerusalem where they would be eaten in the holy city. The farmers living close to Jerusalem would bring fresh fruits, while those who had to travel a long

distance carried dried raisins and figs. This joyful occasion was celebrated with the music of fifes, timbres, and drums. As the pilgrims approached the city walls they were greeted by the inhabitants of the city. Sometimes the King himself would join the procession to the Temple Mount. And so it was on that Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. The King, in the person of the Holy Spirit, came and joined the pilgrims gathered in that upstairs room in Jerusalem.

Pentecost then portrays God as the Lord of His harvest, choosing and preparing the firstfruits of His coming Kingdom by giving them His Holy Spirit. What appropriate symbolism since the first fruits of the new church was a "harvest" of 3000 souls at Peter's Pentecost sermon. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began speaking to the crowds gathered for the festival. By a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation which Peter seized upon with Spirit empowered boldness and the church was off and running. So this is some historical background concerning Pentecost and why a central Jewish festival has become a central Christian festival. But the real reason we still celebrate Pentecost isn't just because it is some historical and liturgical phenomenon.

The real reason is to remember that, just as Jesus is still alive, the Holy Spirit is still here with us moving in our lives each and every day. He is not just for then, as some denominations tend to say. He is for now as well. His work in and for us is to be a teacher (John 14:26), a guide (John 16:13), an intercessor (Rom. 8:26) and One who empowers us (Acts 1:8) to name a few. So as we come to Pentecost Sunday this year, let us be mindful of the fact that as every Sunday is an Easter celebration, every day is a Pentecost. See you in church that day sporting some red.

Blessings, Jim+

New Tables for the Parish Hall

God has blessed us with a gift from an anonymous donor who attended Jim's 25th ordination celebration so that we could purchase new tables for the Parish Hall. Let us give thanks to God for His goodness to us.

Please mark and save the date.

May 31st is both Pentecost Sunday (wear red to church) AND the day we will hold our Parish Picnic (so wear shorts too if you wish). Details will follow but plan on the picnic being right after Sunday School as that will be our last class day till fall.

TREASURER'S REPORT MARCH 2009

Income for the month of March was \$12,719.91, which includes plate offerings, building pledges and rental income. Expenses totaled \$12,137.20. We incurred a surplus for the month of \$582.71. Our year-to-date income is \$31,542.19 (budget - \$33,336.00) and expenses are \$33,236.41 (budget - \$33,195.00), resulting in a year to date deficit of \$1,694.22. Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If anyone has any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Judy Ball, Treasurer

Project Linus News

Our Lenten project has been a great success. On Sunday, April 19th, we had a blessing service for our nineteen small quilts and afghans. These have been donated to The Haven shelter and six are already in the hands of children.

Thanks for all the hard work from many hands making afghans, blankets and quilts or donating materials.

We've enjoyed it so much that we've decided to keep meeting once a month and everyone is welcome. There is something for everyone to do!

Our next get together will be Wednesday, May 13.

ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE??

If your answer is no, then join us at the Parish Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30. We have a dedicated group who walks about a mile. Only 20 minutes and look at what you will have accomplished! It makes you feel good, and you'll look good, too.

WEIGHT TRAINING/STRETCHING

Join Kathy Gregory on TUESDAYS at 6 pm in the Parish Hall for some weight training. Bring your own weights and mat and be prepared to workout to music. Whatever your fitness level, this is the class for you.

Trust me, you don't want to miss out on this hour of fun!!

Do You Want to Volunteer/Participate? Check out these Dates and Events

Thursday/Friday (May 14/15) – Sign up for a two hour stint in front of Safeway to collect food for the Fauquier Food Coalition (contact Charlotte, Jack, Barbara Whitbred)

Saturday (May 16) – Spring Festival on Main Street in Warrenton. Volunteers needed to help raise money for Fauquier Habitat for Humanity. Raffle tickets

being sold for a chance to win a shed that will be built on site that day. If interested in working, please contact Melba, Mignonne, or Carol Goshorn.

Saturday (May 30) – Relay for Life at the Fauquier High School (contact Sharon Woodward or Greg McLeod if you would like to purchase a luminary in honor of or in memory of a loved one.)

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

MEET JEANNETTE CERV

This year we had the first three-generation baptism that anyone can remember at Grace Church Casanova. The senior member of that family is **Jeannette Cerv** who was baptized along with her daughter, Debbie O'Meara, and granddaughter, Ashley O'Meara. Last year when Jeannette was in the hospital with pneumonia she talked to the Chaplain about her wish to be baptised. He suggested an Episcopal Church. One day while driving with Ashley she noticed the sign for Grace Church on Meetze Road. They followed the signs to our little church in the woods and fell in love with it.

Jeannette was born and raised in Fremont, Nebraska. She married her high school sweetheart and they lived in Oregon, where her oldest son was born, Washington, and California before moving to Alexandria, Virginia. Both her second son and daughter were born in Virginia. A divorce left Jeannette a single parent when her children only 7, 9 and 12 years of age. She managed a Fanny Mae Candies store and also worked as a manager for the artist, Lena Liu for a while. Jeannette followed her daughter to this area and moved to her Midland home when her Alexandria house sold to a developer. She enjoyed taking care of granddaughter, Ashley, before Ashley started school.

Jeannette now has her own business cleaning homes. Besides cleaning houses, she enjoys her 5 grandchildren, redoing furniture, and working in the garden. Jeannette is a bit of a daredevil and loves riding her four-wheeler.

Granddaughter, Ashley, also has a four-wheeler and the two often go four-wheeling together.

Grace Church

May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Worship 9:00 Today is UTO Sunday Clean-up day follow- ing Sun. School	4 *Donna Shipe	5	6 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:00 *Sue Ballentine	11 7:00 Vestry Meeting	12 *Rick Anderson	13 11:00 AM Senior Center	14 Ruritan Din- ner 7 PM *Carol Payne	15 Grace Notes deadline #Bryan & Barbara Jacobs *Betsy Anderson	16 Fr. Jim Away
17 Worship 9:00	18	19	20 11:00 AM Se- nior Center *Jane Childs	21 *Karen Walton *Bobbie Gould- thorpe *Meg Jacobs	22	23
24 Worship 9:00	25	26	27 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	28	29	30
31 PENTE- COST Worship 9:00 Parish Pic- nic Healing Ser- vice 5:00 pm						

* = Birthday #Anniversary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

May 4	Donna Shipe
May 10	Sue Ballentine
May 12	Rick Anderson
May 14	Carol Payne

May 15
May 20
May 21

Betsy Anderson
Jane Childs
Karen Walton,
Bobbie Gouldthorpe,
& Meg Jacobs

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

May 15 Bryan & Barbara Jacobs

