

Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 18, Casanova, Virginia 20139 (540) 788-4419 January 2010



RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Grace Church
Friends and Family

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. It is a time of year when resolutions are made and often quickly broken. Also at this time, some folks will reflect back over the year passed to see what it was like, how it turned out and what they did that was worthwhile. We pretty much all want to be people of worth and do things that are worthwhile but many people think that what they do is insignificant.

Many of us have just seen, or seen again, the movie *It's A Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey. George's life did not turn out as he had hoped and after Uncle Billy fails to make a bank deposit (thanks to mean old Mr. Potter) George finds himself in the depths of despair. He feels that his life has been so bad that he wished he'd never been born. It wouldn't matter to anyone anyway. We know that the angel Clarence shows him otherwise.

Many followers of Jesus see their work for the Lord in much the same way –

“insignificant”. It wouldn't matter to anyone anyway. They thank God for the gifted and famous: the evangelists, missionaries, ministers of healing and teachers and preachers of the faith. “Those people have a ministry,” they say or think, “but not *me*.”

My word to you who may think this way is, “Don't be so sure!” A Scripture verse that has meant a lot to me over the years is 1 Corinthians 15:58:

Therefore ... be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

We could well understand it if this verse had been written about an apostle. He does major work for the Lord so, of course, his work is not in vain. However, this verse was written by an apostle for plain, ordinary Christians in Corinth, Paul's “beloved brethren.” Their work — the work of people just like you and me — is never in vain.

Scripture is full of people whose names are not even recorded but had a part in something significant. Here are just two:

*Jesus' first miracle occurred when unnamed servants filled with water six large stone jars, ladled out some of it and took it to the steward of the wedding feast. We don't know their names and though their part in the story was small, God used them (John 2:1-11).

*Jesus needed to feed five thousand people who had just heard Him teach. Present was a young lad who had five barley loaves and two fish. From this Jesus worked a miracle of feeding. This unnamed young man did not work the miracle but he played a part in what Jesus did (John 6:1-14).

Whatever part you take in serving the Lord, whether large or small, remember that the results are up to God not you. You do not have to do it all, but you do need to do your part, whatever it may be. With these in mind, how do we serve the Lord?

1. With confidence. Never think that what you do for the Lord is insignificant.
4. With caring. Work so that others are truly helped and loved.

So, beloved, be *always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

May a blessed new year be yours in the Lord. Jim+

TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER, 2009

Income for the month of November was \$17,356.78; expenses totaled \$16,594.71, resulting in income for the month of \$762.07. Our year-to-date income is \$130,423.50 (budget - \$122,229.00) and expenses are \$130,592.36 (budget - \$121,715.00), resulting in a year to date deficit of \$168.86.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If anyone has any questions regarding this report or any financial matter, please feel free to contact me.

Judy Ball
Treasurer

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held after the 9 a.m. service on Sunday January 10, 2010 in the

2. With quality. Give it your best, whatever it is. God deserves that.

3. With devotion. Serve so Church. We will elect 2 new Vestry members who will serve for the 2010-2013 term and a diocesan/deanery delegate for 2010 who serves through the Diocesan Council meeting in Jan. 2011.

Annual Reports for Parish Meeting

If you run one of the ministries of Grace Church, remember that we will be looking to hear from you about what was done in 2008 at our Annual Meeting.

Please write up a copy of your report to give to the Register that day.

Bishop Johnston Visits Grace

Our new diocesan bishop will be visiting Grace in the afternoon on Sunday February 7. In light of it being an afternoon visit, we will not hold our regular service or Sunday School that morning. We will have the service, followed by a reception, sometime in the afternoon, time TBA later. Please plan to come and meet Bishop Johnston that afternoon.

that God gets the glory and His Name is uplifted.

Grace Church

January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Church Of- fice Closed Jonathan Vasbinder*	2 #Richard & Carol Payne
3 Worship 9:00	4 Shannon Perreault*	5	6 11:00 AM Senior Center New Years Party	7	8	9
10 Worship 9:00 Annual Parish Mtg in the church follow- ing the service	11 7:00 Vestry Meeting Louie Warren* Stacey Walton* Brandon Dawson*	12 Richard Payne*	13 11:00 AM Senior Center Judy Ball*	14 Ruritan Dinner 7:00 PM	15 Grace Notes deadline	16
17 Worship 9:00	18	19	20 11:00 AM Senior Center Debbie O'Meara*	21 Will Shipe *	22	23 Jessica Warren*
24 Worship 9:00	25	26	27 11:00 AM Senior Center	28 Becky Warren*	29	30 Bob Schuman*
31 Worship 9:00 5:00 PM Heal- ing Service						

* = Birthday # = Anniversary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jan 1 Jonathan Vasbinder
 Jan 4 Shannon Perreault
 Jan 11 Louis Warren Jr.,
 Stacey Walton, & Brandon Dawson
 Jan 12 Richard Payne
 Jan 13 Judy Bal
 Jan 21 Will Shipe
 Jan 23 Jessica Warren
 Jan 28 Becky Warren

Jan 30

Bob Schuman

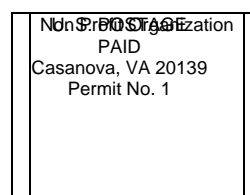
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Jan 3 Richard & Carol Payne

Grace Church Serving Schedule -- January 2010

Date	Svc	Day	Lessons	Lector	Acolyte	Altar	Coffee Hosts	
Jan 3	HE 9:00	Chrst- mas 2	Psalm 84 Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Luke 2:41-52	Betsy Anderson	Madell Day	Mignonne Spellmeyer	Judy Ball & Barbara Whitbred
Jan 10	HE 9:00	Epiph 1	Psalm: 29 Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	B. Gould- thorpe	Madell Day	Carol Goshorn	Sue Ballentine
Jan 17	HE 9:00	Epiph 2	Psalm 36:5-10 Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Linda Swann	Jack Perry	Barbara Jacobs	Mary Neal
Jan 24	HE 9:00	Epiph 3	Psalm 19 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Dee Garrett	Jack Perry	Pam Ruffner	Diane & Ron Fayy
Jan31	HE 9:00	Epiph 4	Psalm 71:1-6 Jeremiah 1:4-10	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Judy Ball	Madell Day	Charlotte Perry	Karen & Jimmy Walton
Feb 7	HE ??	Epiph 5	Psalm 138 Isaiah 6:1-13	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Pam Ruffner	Jack Perry	Betsy Anderson	Reception for Bishop Johnston in PM

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Services every Sunday at Grace Church on Route 602 in Casanova at 9:00 AM, followed by a coffee fellowship and Sunday School for all ages in the Family Center near the church.
