



Grace Notes

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



RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Ones at Grace,

I am learning, at least I think I am, that mature faith, which encompasses both simple faith and fidelity, works just the opposite of paranoia. Mature faith reassembles all the events of life around trust in a loving God. When good things happen, I accept them as gifts from God. When bad things happen, I do not take them as necessarily sent by God – I see evidence in the Bible to the contrary – and I find in them no reason to distance myself or dissociate from God. Rather, I am learning to trust that God can even use those bad things for my benefit. (Romans 8:28) This, at least, is the way I am seeking and hoping to live.

A faithful person sees life from the perspective of trust, not fear. Bedrock faith allows me to believe that, despite the chaos of the present time, God does reign; that Mid September brings me face to face with one such tragedy that I can only explain as evil on the part of an element of

regardless of how worthless I may feel, I truly matter to the God of love; that no pain lasts forever and no evil triumphs in the end. Faith sees even the darkest deed in all of history, the death of God's Son, as a necessary prelude to the brightest.

Many things happen in this world that are clearly against God's will. Read the prophets, God's designated spokesmen, who roar against idolatry, injustice, violence, rebellion and sin. Read the Gospels, where Jesus upsets the religious establishment by freeing people from disabilities the "established" leaders deemed "God's will." I find that there is no justification in blaming God for what God so clearly opposes.

The skeptic's question does not melt away, though. How can I praise God for the good things in life without criticizing God for the bad? I can do so humankind. I could blame God for September 11. Some do. But as evil as it was as an act of terror, good has

only by establishing an attitude of trust – paranoia in reverse - based on what I have learned in relationship with God.

That being said, God's style often baffles me. He moves sometimes at a very slow pace. He often prefers rebels and prodigals, restrains His unfathomable power and frequently speaks in whispers and silence. Yet it is in these qualities that I see evidence of God's patience, mercy, grace and His desire to woo rather than compel. When in doubt, I focus on Jesus, the most untainted, unfiltered revelation of God's own self. I have learned (at least some of the time) to trust God, so that when some tragedy or evil occurs that I cannot synthesize with the God I have come to know and love, then I look for other explanations.

come from it. Not all that has come from it is good, mind you, but a good has come from it. And I see that partly

or wholly because of having a faith that is just the opposite of paranoia. As I said in the beginning, "Mature faith reassembles all the events of life around trust in a loving God." I am seeking to live a life that reassembles the events which occur and center them around trust in a loving, caring God of hope rather than focusing in on paranoia and fear. I invite you to do the same as you face whatever it is that you are facing in your life; whether health or illness, joy or grief, exhilaration or depression. And I invite you also to "rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn" and so multiply another's joys and divide another's burdens. Since we are the body of Christ, we face all of these things best, when we face them together. So let us walk together through the valleys and to the mountain peaks of life, alongside the God of grace, love and hope.

Your sheepdog,
Jim+

**VESTRY
HIGHLIGHTS
HTS**

Aug. 9, 2010

The Jr. Warden reported that the rectory is in good shape, and that ARMI is still trying to get new renters. He also stated that the A/C in the Parish House has been repaired, and that he is waiting for an evaluation of a large tree at the Parish House.

The Sr. Warden reported that she had met with the group from St. Andrews Catholic Church interested in renting the church. This has been negotiated and they began services on Aug. 1. She reported that she has attended the open mike programs and this is going to be a successful outreach to the community.

Fr. Jim will be on vacation from Aug. 10-14 and Aug. 16-21. On Sep. 10-13 he will be out of town on business and the Rev. Tom Hayes will be the Officiant on Sep. 12.

The Mustard Seed grant from Region 13 has been approved for \$1,500. This will be used to buy video equipment for a youth program that Greg McLeod is planning.

It was decided not to have a community picnic this year but instead put emphasis on the next open mic on Sep. 15, from 7-9.

It was voted to negotiate a contract with Sovereign Grace, the church that has been meeting for several years in the Parish Hall. This will include a rent increase. This agreement will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Sep. 13.

**OPEN MIC NIGHT
OPEN TO ALL**

Our Open Mic nights have been a success!!! The next Open Mic night will be Saturday evening September 25 from 7 - 9 PM in the Parish Hall. Please bring some sort of snack/finger food or beverage for our guests to share. Spread the word and invite/bring a friend!

**TREASURER'S REPORT
JUNE and JULY, 2010**

Income for the months of June and July was \$22,032.17, which included \$582.54 from the yard sale and a \$1,500.00 mustard seed grant from the Diocese for the Come, Grow, Go program (budget \$22,650). Expenses totaled \$18,689.87 (budget \$22,650.00), resulting in income for the two months of \$3,342.30. Our income for the first 7 months of the year was \$87,488.51 (budget \$79,275.00) and disbursements were \$84,340.52 (budget \$79,275.00); income for the year as of 7/31/10, which includes the \$1,500.00 mustard seed grant, is \$3,147.99

At the end of July the following bills were due and unpaid:
Fr. Jim's Pension Plan Premiums \$6,184.72
(6 months in arrears)

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

Grace Church

September 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 + 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	2 *Shelly Shipe	3	4
5 Worship 9:00 AM *Amy Payne	6 Office closed Labor Day	7	8 + 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	9	10 *Owen Fields	11 #Jimmy & Karen Walton Fr. Jim Away
12 Worship 9:00 AM	13 7:00 Vestry Meeting	14	15 + 11:00 AM Se- nior Center <i>Grace Notes deadline</i>	16 *Linda Swann *Linda Tucci *Gregg Leon- ard Jr.	17	18 *
19 Worship 9:00 AM *Michael Calhoun	20 *Jimmy Walton	21	22 + 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	23	24	25 Open Mike Night 7-9 PM Parish Hall
26 Worship 9:00 AM *Andy Butler	27 *Ray Graham	28	29 + 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	30		

* = Birthday #Anniversary + 10:30 Eucharist in Parish Hall

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

9/2 Shelly Shipe
 9/5 Amy Payne
 9/16 Linda Swann &
 Gregg Leonard, Jr.
 9/19 Michael Calhoun
 9/20 Jimmy Walton
 9/26 Andy Butler
 9/27 Ray Graham

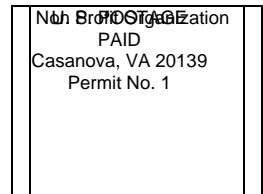
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

9/11 Jimmy & Karen Walton

Grace Church Serving Schedule -- September 2010

Date	Svc	Day	Lessons	Lector	Acolyte	Altar	Coffee Hosts	
Sep 5	HE 9:00	Pent 15	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 Jeremiah 18:1-11	Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Judy Ball	Carol Goshorn	Mignonne Spellmeyer	Charlotte & Jack Perry
Sep 12	HE 9:00	Pent 16	Psalm 14 Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Pam Ruffner	Madell Day	Betsy Anderson	Sue Ballentine
Sep 19	HE 9:00	Pent 17	Psalm 79:1-9 Jeremiah 8:18—9:1	1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Dee Garrett	Jack Perry	Carol Goshorn	Judy Ball & Barbara Whitbred
Sep 26	HE 9:00	Pent 18	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	Betsy Anderson	Carol Goshorn	Charlotte Perry	Judy Shipe & Sharon Woodward
Oct 3	HE 9:00	Pent 19	Psalm 137 Lamentations 1:1-6	2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	Linda Swann	Madell Day	Barbara Jacobs	Mignonne Spellmeyer & Dee Garrett

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Rev. James Cirillo, Rector
P.O. Box 18
Casanova, VA 20139
(540) 788-4419
Website: gracechurchcasanova.org



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.
