



Grace Notes

May 2026

Grace Episcopal Church

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Midland, Virginia 22728

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A Word from Our Priest

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

I bring you greetings in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” St. Matthew 24:36 NRSV

When catastrophic events occur and often in the form of natural disasters, some people are quick to declare that the end of the world is near. They see these events as God's punishing us for our sins. Some will list these sins in detail while others will even go so far as to give a date certain. Do they not see or understand God's love is for all of us? God does not punish us by death but rather God loves and God is love. Yes, just as St. Matthew writes, only God knows 'about that day and hour' or means for that matter of our earthly demise. Yet God's immeasurable love for us remains unwavering and is evident in the gift of salvation. Eternal life is made possible for us through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

We are currently in the great fifty days of the Easter season that started on the day that Jesus was raised from the dead, Easter Sunday. Three days before on Good Friday, in obedience to his Father, Jesus died for our sins. It is sin that separates us from God but God does not desire for us to be separated from Him. In dying for our sins, Jesus established a pathway in which we are reconciled to God. All one needs to do is sincerely ask for forgiveness and it is given.

As we move from Easter toward Pentecost, we will first observe the day of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus on May 17th. In the Ascension, forty days after His resurrection, Jesus has completed his mission on earth and returns to the Father to sit at His right hand. You will recall Jesus' conversation with the disciples (us) that he would not leave them (us) alone. As a result, Jesus sends a comforter in the form of the Holy Spirit not only to be with us but also to help us to continue His work. Jesus promises not only will we not continue His work but that even greater deeds will be done. This benchmark is Pentecost:

It not only represents the descent of the Holy Spirit but also marks the beginning of the church's global mission to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and His love for all people.

Pentecost Sunday falls on May 24th this year. Would you consider commemorating this day by wearing the color red? Through the centuries the Church has used the wearing of red on this day to celebrate the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles. "And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2:3-4 NRSV

The gift of salvation and the presence of the Holy Spirit are given to us because of God's love for us. Because of this everlasting love, we want to do good works and continue his work on earth. Our primary goal is not to receive thanks and praise but rather as disciples/apostles, to continue Jesus' mission. It is Jesus' love for us and in us that we are able to love one another. With this immense power of love, we can do good works for ALL people starting in Casanova. Grace, you steadfastly continue to demonstrate this gift of love which has been given to us!

The peace of the Lord is always with us,



Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠



Treasurer's Report ~ March Data

Income in the month of March was \$8,124.90 (budget \$9,144.25); expenditures totaled \$10,829.42 (budget \$9,144.25), resulting in a loss for the month of \$2,704.52.

In March the book value of the Endowment Fund was \$76,596.52. Market value as of March 31 was \$91,306.41, a loss of \$4,569.34 for the month.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If you have any questions about this report or any financial matter, please contact me.

Judy Ball, Treasurer

Feed My Sheep & Annual Spring Dinner: Record Donations!



Thanks to your widespread support of the Annual Spring Dinner this past month, **Grace is delighted to pass on its share of the proceeds, in the amount of \$1,176.00 to FMS.** A well-deserved shout out as well to the Ruritans for all their help teaming up with Grace for this event. If by chance you missed the fund-raising dinner, remember that you can still contribute by mail or by placing your donation in the collection plate at Sunday services. If by mail, the address is:

Grace Episcopal Church
PO Box 15
Casanova, VA 20139

Also, if your contribution is by check, please make it payable to Grace Episcopal Church and note FMS on the memo line.



Everyone seems to be enjoying good food and a neighborly chat in pleasant surroundings!



The lovely home-grown flower arrangements really enhanced the Spring-time atmosphere.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Stephanie Myers	3 May
Donna Shipe	4 May
David Coates	7 May
Emelia Warren	9 May
Sue Ballentine	10 May
Rick Anderson	12 May
Carol Payne	14 May
Adam Rhoads	14 May
Betsy Anderson	15 May
Bryan & Barbara Jacobs	15 May
Nellie Warren Escorcia	19 May
Bobbie Gouldthorpe	21 May
Karen Walton	21 May
Flavia Escorcia	26 May

May Calendar



May 3 Sunday Service, 10am St. Luke's
May 5 Soup Kitchen, 10am Parish Hall
Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
May 6 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
May 8 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, the Parish Hall
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May 10 Sunday Service, 9am Grace  
May 12 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall  
May 13 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall  
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center  
May 15 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall  
May 16 Sew What at 9:30am, St Luke's  
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May 17 Sunday Service, 10am at St Luke's
May 19 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
May 20 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
May 22 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall
Casanova Book Club, 12 noon TBD
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May 24 Sunday Service, 10am at Grace  
May 26 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 2pm & 3:30pm, the Parish Hall  
May 27 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall  
May 29 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
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May 31 Sunday Service at 10am, St Luke's

Mission Possible ~ Soup Time Again !

We will start our spring soup kitchen at 10am at the Parish Hall on Tuesday, MAY 5th, the Tuesday before Mother's Day.

As always, we need volunteers to make this happen.

- Soup - please make your soup before Tuesday and bring to Parish Hall in our takeaway soup containers - containers will be at the Parish Hall the week preceding Tuesday on the center table in kitchen or you can swing by my house to get them, or I can drop them off. Usually 4 plus quarts will be plenty! Please label what you made and make special note if gluten free, has meat, etc.
- Cornbread - 2 muffins in a sealed baggy. We will need 25 baggies
- Dessert - cookies or cupcakes 50 - (2 in a bag)
- Assemblers - 4-5 people at Parish Hall - this takes about an hour
- Deliverers - 5-6 people (a great way to reconnect with old and new friends alike). We usually start deliveries at 11am.
- Cardboard trays with sides (Chewy wet food boxes and Ledo pizza boxes are the best) (8"x10-12")
- Oui yogurt containers for flowers

As always, if you have a friend or neighbor who would appreciate a homemade meal, please provide their name and address. This is also a time to focus on anyone new to the community so those names also would be most welcome.

Please let me know if you can help.
Mignonne 540 272-0014 Thank you!



Do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa