



Grace Notes

October 2026

Grace Episcopal Church

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A Word from Our Priest

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

Reflections on our much-loved *Annual Casanova Community Picnic*

Beginnings: During a 2023 vestry meeting it was discussed having a church picnic and a date was set for September 10th. More discussion led to the decision to have a community-wide picnic rather than simply a Grace Church member event. Then it was suggested to add live music and all agreed.

This was decidedly an '*all hands on deck*' event with more detailed planning and logistics. Bryan Jacobs readily agreed to provide the live music (Blue Grass and Gospel Blue Grass) and advertising for the event was word-of-mouth, postcards, and strategically placed sandwich boards around Casanova and environs.

It was an absolute joy to see how strongly the community responded. I do not know the exact number, but I know it is somewhere between 65 to 70 people who attended. The comments from the community were very positive and they would love these kinds of events to continue. It is important to note that some of the community even stated that they would be willing to help in setting up and taking down future events. Fortunately, the ants stayed away and the rain held off until the end.

I believe this is what community ministry looks like and I thank you for all the hard work that you did in making this a huge success.

This Year's Event: The above I wrote three years ago. Our 2026 picnic of a few weeks ago was a resounding success with palpable enthusiasm from the estimated 90 participants. My observation is that over half of the food was given by the community. It shows that we have continued to grow in community and although we are small, we are strong! Thank you again for your community spirit and participation as we continue to grow.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

Treasurer's Report – August Data

Income in the month of August was \$8,487.31 (budget \$9,144.25); expenditures totaled \$7,043.19 (budget \$9,144.25), resulting in income for the month of \$1,444.12.

The book value of the Endowment Fund is \$76,596.52. Market value as of August 31 was \$102,191.72, a gain of \$2,137.96 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



Stirring the Pot – It's Soup Time Again !

We are gathering at the Parish Hall for our Fall soup kitchen on **Tuesday, October 27th, at 10 am.** We will be assembling trays with soup, corn bread and dessert and should be ready to deliver by 11am - so if you would be willing to make soup and/or help with the assembly and delivery, please mark the 27th on your calendar. And if you know anyone who would appreciate a meal, please provide names and addresses. Need further info? Call or text Mignonne Spellmeyer: 540 272-0014

PS - We especially need delivery persons!

Feed My Sheep

*If I am hungry that is a material problem;
if someone else is hungry, that is a spiritual problem.*

Paul Farmer, American Medical Anthropologist & Physician

You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works.

Pope Francis

In this vein, we ask you to please continue supporting the *Feed My Sheep* outreach program. Your help in any amount adds to the collective success of feeding some 50+ families in the immediate Fauquier County area. Please make check payable to Grace Episcopal Church and note "FMS" on the memo line. If sending by mail: Grace Episcopal Church, PO Box 15, Casanova, VA 20139. You may also put your contribution in the collection plate at Sunday morning service.

Quest for Volunteers

Grace Church is looking for persons to help us with Sunday Services. **The time commitment can be as little as a couple of hours once a month.** Areas of need are altar setup, flowers (which may be prepared and delivered in advance), and priest's assistants as well as lay readers. In addition, Grace Notes is also seeking a person to help produce, assemble, and distribute the newsletter.

If you would like to participate but are concerned about skill sets in any particular area of our need and your interest, no worries! We will team you up with an experienced person who can guide you through the process. For further persuasion and information, please contact Joy Goodenough at southrunriding@aol.com or text 571 224-8486.

Do it With Grace

October Calendar of Events

- Oct 2 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45, the Parish Hall
- Oct 4 Sunday Service, 10am Grace
- Oct 6 Bible Study 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Chair Yoga at 2pm, the Parish Hall
Yoga at 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- Oct 7 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
- Oct 9 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45, the Parish Hall
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- Oct 11 Sunday Service, 10am Grace
- Oct 13 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Chair Yoga at 2pm, the Parish Hall
Yoga at 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- Oct 14 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- Oct 16 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45am, Parish Hall
- Oct 10 Sew What? 9:30am, Grace Family Ctr
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- Oct 18 Sunday Service, 10am at Grace
- Oct 20 Chair Yoga at 2pm, the Parish Hall
Yoga at 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- Oct 21 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
- Oct 23 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45am, Parish Hall
Casanova Book Club, 12pm TBD
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- Oct 25 Sunday Service 10am Grace
- Oct 27 Soup Kitchen, 10am, Parish Hall
Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Chair Yoga at 2pm, the Parish Hall
Yoga at 3:30pm, the Parish Hall
- Oct 28 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
- Oct 30 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45am, Parish Hall



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ashley O'Meara	October 5
TJ Johnson	October 12
Pam Ruffner	October 12
Jackie Shipe	October 17
Logan Shipe	October 17
Julie Brewer	October 27
Corey Butler	October 29
Barbara McLeod	October 29

Patriotic Quilts Project Continues!

Sew What meets at Grace Family Center this month on Oct 17th from 9:30am to about 12:30pm. We're still working on Patriotic Veterans quilt tops, but bring whatever you're working on.

Over the summer, our group made 26 quilt patriotic quilt tops to support veterans from each service, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Space Force. We'll continue to make more Army specific tops since more



Casanova Community Picnic a Resounding Success!



No better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than at a picnic! Some 90+ Casanova friends and neighbors came together on September 13th to enjoy a diverse and delicious array of pot luck dishes that 'paired well' with pulled chicken barbeque and smoked ribs. An interesting variety of raffle items gave a boost to the festive mood. Then there was the very special treat of live music from the Jacobs & Friends Band. Despite a brief shower half way through, we simply moved the party inside and the band played on! What a great chance it was to greet old friends and meet new ones. With such a positive response from picnic goers, we look forward to the now annual Fall season event.



Mignon Spellmeyer did a stellar job of organizing the event and keeping the various teams inspired.



New neighbors Angela Roper and Hernan Otano tending to the popcorn machine. Thanks for adding that to the party!



Tilly Johnson hopes she draws a winning ticket in the raffle. There were so many tempting choices it was hard to choose!



Resident artist Kathy Gregory demonstrates sketching techniques.



This is what came off of Kathy's easel for her on the spot sketching under the trees. She certainly captured the essence of Fr. Michael in this portrait.



A big thanks to Bryan Jacobs for not only his great strumming but also for organizing his fellow musicians to show up and entertain us.

So when it rains...just move the party inside!



Standing up or sitting down, the festivities continue inside the Parish Hall after a brief, typical afternoon shower.



Let the sunshine in and party on!



Thanks to local musicians who donated their time and talent to make the music happen. How about playing "Will the Circle Be Unbroken"?



JoAnn Gaines says this buffet is pretty darn good!



Bluegrass player Jimmy Jacobs plucks his banjo for the occasion. All in the family!

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!

A big thanks to all of you who turned out to make this year's picnic better than ever. Big applause goes to the organizers and worker bees: Mignonne Spellmeyer as point-woman and the hours of work her team put in to make it all happen. These include the "Flower Ladies" for the lovely arrangements; Susan Payne for marketing and cooking; Sharon Sweeney in charge of set up with special help from Tom Bilger and David Finnichiario; the kitchen crew and food coordinators Judy Ball and Marilyn Ottevaere. Also a big shout out to the clean-up helpers!!

We couldn't have done it without you.

October Serving Schedule

Day	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
<i>The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Oct 4, 2026</i>	Joy Goodenough/ Diane Gulick	Judy Ball	Susan Payne	Sue Ballantine
<i>The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Oct 11, 2026</i>	Barbara Jacobs/ Susan Payne	Bryan Jacobs	Sue Ballantine	Sharon Sweeney
<i>The Twenty- first Sunday after Pentecost Oct 18, 2026</i>	Joy Goodenough/ Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Marilyn Ottevaere
<i>The Twenty- second Sunday after Pentecost Oct 25, 2026</i>	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Bryan Jacobs	Sharon Sweeney	Joy Goodenough

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