

# Grace Notes



March 2024

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.

***And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors Matthew 6:12(NRSV)***

The operative word in the verse quoted above is FORGIVE. What comes to mind is there was an occurrence which caused harm or perceived harm. The harm could be mental, e.g. she hurt my feelings, or physical or both. When this harm occurs, it creates a break in a relationship. Consider that someone made a statement about you that was not true. *Thou shall not bear false witness* comes to mind. This false witness may have been responsible for your not receiving a promotion or may have placed you in an unwarranted conflict with another person. Enmity now exists between you and this person.

Time passes and the person who started this adversity realizes the error of their ways and comes to you with a sincere apology and a request for you to forgive them. They admit to the harm it has caused you and state that actions they have done to make the situation right. What is your reply?

***For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15 (NRSV)***

God has not requested us to forgive; he has made a command for us to forgive. We must forgive as we have been forgiven. Consider the comments that I have heard over the years. "I am never going to forgive him" or "What she did is just unforgiveable so no, I am not going to forgive her." One immediately asks the question, "What if that was God's response to us. Have we not committed and are committing harm to Him? Have we not created a broken relationship with Him?"

God never said I will never forgive them. No, he sent his Son, Jesus who on the cross established a system of eternal forgiveness. Regardless of how great a sin we commit, God will always forgive us if we ask. He will never say the harm you have done to me is unforgiveable. This is the gift of grace that was given to us on Easter.

Thanks be to God.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S. ✠

## Senior Warden's Report

The Vestry met in January and installed the new Vestry members Marilyn Ottevaere and Bryan Jacobs. Sharon Sweeney also joins the Vestry to fill the two-year unexpired term vacated by Betsy Anderson.

Elections were held for Vestry Officers with the following results:

Bryan Jacobs – Sr. Warden  
Marilyn Ottevaere – Jr. Warden  
Susan Payne - Registrar  
Judy Ball - Treasurer  
Barbara Jacobs – Asst. Treasurer  
Diocesan and Regional Delegate - Bryan Jacobs

A group get-together for Shrove Tuesday was brought up and arranged for at the Warrenton IHOP.

Yearly Housing Allowance for Fr. Michael as described in Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code was approved.

There are several trees on the church property that need to be removed. Three of these trees present a danger to the church and/or graveyard and will be removed first. The cost of the removal of the first three trees will be \$7,500.00; of this \$2,000.00 goes for the rental of a crane as the location of these trees required the use of a crane for the safe removal.

Proposed budget for 2024 was presented and approved.

The Emergency Contact List was updated and will be distributed to the members of the Vestry. This list serves primarily as the "phone tree" to let parishioners know if there is a change or cancellation to services.

The ECW and the Vestry are looking into having Spring Roast Beef Dinner and a Summer Picnic

Submitted by  
*Bryan Jacobs*, Sr. Warden

## Treasurer's Report ~ January Data

Income for the month of December was \$11,227.40 (budget \$9,450.00); expenditures totaled \$13,482.95 (budget \$9,450.00), resulting in a loss for the month of \$2,255.55

Income for the month of January was \$8,538.76 (budget \$9,429.75); expenditures totaled \$15,695.90 (budget \$9,429.75), resulting in a loss for the month of \$7,157.14. The Vestry approved an unbudgeted expenditure in January of \$7,500.00 for removal of three large trees – one at the fence line along the cemetery, one in the parking lot which has been dead for many years, and the maple next to the sacristy.

Book value of the Endowment Fund is \$69,782.78; market value as of January 31 was \$72,313.17, a gain of \$192.97 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

### March Calendar



- March 1 Yoga at 10am, Parish Hall  
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- Mar 3 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- Mar 5 Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Mar 6 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Mar 8 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
- Mar 9 Sew What at 9:30am, the Parish Hall  
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- Mar 10 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- Mar 12 Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Mar 13 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Mar 15 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
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- Mar 17 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- Mar 19 Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Mar 20 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall  
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- Mar 22 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Casanova Book Club, 12 noon, TBD  
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- Mar 24 Palm Sunday Service, 10am at Grace
- Mar 26 Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Mar 27 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Service, St Luke's, 7pm
- Mar 29 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Good Friday Service St Luke's 7pm
- Mar 30 Easter Vigil, PM Time TBD, St James
- Mar 31 Easter Sunday Service, Grace, 10am

### Save the Date

Annual Spring Dinner  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-7:00pm

Grace Church Parish Hall  
Casanova

All proceeds donated to charity



### Thank You Soup Kitchen Crew!

**Thank you** all so much for making the Valentine's Day soup kitchen a success! For those who prepared soup, cornbread, muffins, desserts, embroidered hearts, applause. Also, extra accolades to all who assembled and delivered the trays to friends and neighbors throughout the county! The count was 21 trays this go around. We have gotten messages of appreciation from recipients, so again many thanks to each and every one of you for making it happen. Indeed, it takes a village! *Mignonne*



Joy, Sue, Mignonne, Gene & Susan ready to roll with deliveries.

## Culpeper Region Notes

Father Michael and Father Pete Gustin of St. Stephen's Catlett performed a "pulpit swap" as suggested by the Culpeper Region in January.

Cady Soukup President and Bryan Jacobs Vice-President took on a task to visit all of the parishes in the region. In January Bryan visited Trinity - Washington, Va, which is Cady's home church. In February, Cady visited Grace and then Cady and Brayn both traveled to St. Luke's for visit there.

The Culpeper Region is planning a Region-wide Retreat at Shrinemont for July 12-14. The room rates are approx. \$90 per night. There are funds available in the Region Grant Fund to provide scholarships for those that need some help in covering the retreat tuition. Some transportation to Shrinemont may also be available.

Submitted by  
*Bryan Jacobs*  
Region Delegate and Vice-President

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW) News

Grace's ECW held its annual meeting on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Family Center. Officers for 2024 were re-elected: Barbara Eanes, President, Marilyn Ottevaere, Vice President and Joy Goodenough, Secretary. A date for the annual Spring Dinner was scheduled; it will be held on Saturday, April 20, 5:00-7:00pm at the Parish Hall. Once again, it will be co-hosted with the Ruritan Club. Proceeds from the event will go back to the community with a decision as to what ministry will benefit to be decided near future. Barbara Eanes and Judy Ball will be co-chairs for Grace; requests for volunteers and food donations will be forthcoming!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries for March

Jeremy Jacobs	March 8
Andrea Wharton	March 10
Miranda Rhoads	March 12
Tammy Nofsinger	March 13
Harper Fields	March 14
Charlie Dawson Vaught	March 16
Ronnie Shipe	March 18
Carol Goshorn	March 24
Stephanie Butler	March 28



## March Serving Schedule

<b>Day</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Assistant</b>	<b>Offertory</b>	<b>Coffee Host</b>
<b><i>The Third Sunday In Lent March 3, 2024</i></b>	Exodus 20:1-1 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Joy Goodenough	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Barbara Eanes
<b><i>The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024</i></b>	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2:3-10 John 3:14-21	Barbara Jacobs	Bryan Jacobs	Sue Ballantine	Sue Ballantine
<b><i>The Fifth Sunday In Lent March 17, 2024</i></b>	Jeremiah 32:31-34 Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:2-33	Carol Cordell	Howard Charnock/ Michael Calhoun	Sue Payne	Marilyn Ottevaere
<b><i>Liturgy of the Palms: Palm Sunday March 24, 2024</i></b>	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Mark 11:1-11	Joy Goodenough/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Judy Ball	Bernice Clayton	Mignonne Spellmeyer.
<b><i>Liturgy of the Passion March 24, 2024</i></b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 15:1-39,40-47	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b><i>The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday March 31, 2024</i></b>	Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer and Diane Gulick	Bryan Jacobs	Sue Payne	Sharon Sweeney

*NOTE: If you are unable to serve as listed above, please contact someone else on your team to substitute for you.*