

Grace Notes



November 2023

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.

The tragic and deeply troublesome violence in the Middle East that started more than two weeks ago has shaken the people of many nations and faiths around the world. The bloodshed and destruction is almost incomprehensible. As a matter of interest, the recent attack on the hospital in Gaza erroneously deemed a safe haven by local people, is an Anglican facility.

As we seek answers as to 'why' for the relentless bloodshed and violence, I want to share the remarks our bishop, the Rt Rev E Mark Stevenson, has made in response to this dire situation; it is both a call for spiritual understanding as well as our prayers.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S. ✠

A Word from Our Bishop

My Siblings in Christ in the Diocese of Virginia,

Some twenty centuries ago, Jesus stood on a hillside not so far from where people are being killed this very day and proclaimed, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." And now, news of unspeakable violence and war from that place of blessing envelops us. The death and destruction that we are witnessing in and around the Holy Land is shocking to read about, and the images that are put before us – in both photo and video form – are beyond the pale. Reports of the deaths and maiming of children and the hospitalized move me to tears. I suspect that such is the case for many of you. Jesus must surely be weeping, even as he wept at the death of Lazarus.

All around us as well, faith communities are calling for prayer. And if there was ever a time for deep, concentrated, focused prayer, it is now. We must pray for all of those in

Israel and Palestine who are living with the threat of violence and death, and for those who have the authority or ability to make decisions and take action to stop the hostilities. We must pray for the families who are not so different from our own – mothers and fathers, grandparents and grandchildren, who simply want to live their lives in peace. We must pray for the many pilgrims from around the world – Christian, Jew, and Muslim – who have been subject to fear of harm simply by being in a place that they hold in their hearts and souls as *holy*. We must pray for the innocent who are caught in the crossfire – the crossfire of bombs and bullets, and the crossfire of rhetoric that seems unable to pause long enough to see the human toll that is being tallied at an exponential rate.

At the foot of the mountain not far from where he spoke of peacemakers, Jesus sat a child beside him to illustrate the greatness inherent in innocence. In the shadows of a temple that resonates the very presence of the divine, the Son of God put his own body between those who would have killed with stones and a child of God whom they despised. And, traveling the countryside that now might well be a battlefield, in the face of those skilled in legalism, the Messiah re-defined the term “neighbor” as an erasure of difference and called us all to a love that will not stand for the persecution of “the other.” My siblings in Christ, how can we followers of his not pray that this divine will be done? How can we not demand that those who have the power to end to this horror bring such a will to reality?

The Archbishop of Jerusalem has offered the following prayer to the world, asking that we offer it to God. It is my fervent hope that we in Virginia will pray these words, and others like them, with the power and energy that knows the limitless love of Jesus.

Let us pray:

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians - and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children, for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray.



Amen

May God bless us – and the victims of war around the world – with the peace that passes all understanding, and melts hearts to the love of Christ Jesus.

The Right Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson
Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia

November Calendar



- Nov 5 Sunday Service, 10am, St Luke's
- Nov 7 Yoga at 4pm, Parish Hall
Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center
- Nov 8 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting at 2pm, Parish Hall
- Nov 10 Yoga at 10am, Parish Hall
- Nov 11 Sew What? at 9:30am, Parish Hall
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- Nov 12 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- Nov 14 Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall  
Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center
- Nov 15 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Nov 17 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
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- Nov 19 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- Nov 21 Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center
- Nov 22 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
- Nov 24 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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- Nov 26 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- Nov 28 Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall  
Bible Study at 1pm, Family Center
- Nov 29 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Nov 30 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall

REMINDER THAT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>. THAT IS ALSO OUR CELEBRATION OF ALL SAINTS DAY.



PLEASE NOTE THAT GRACE AND ST LUKE'S WILL COME TOGETHER FOR A JOINT SERVICE AT ST. LUKE'S, REMINGTON, VA. AT 10:00 A.M.

### Celebrating Birthdays

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Bob Hartsell    | 4 Nov  |
| Paul Dawson     | 5 Nov  |
| Bryan Jacobs    | 7 Nov  |
| Sue Payne       | 13 Nov |
| Jim Cirillo     | 18 Nov |
| Rob Moline      | 21 Nov |
| Janice Richards | 26 Nov |



### Quilting with "Sew What"

Our Sew What crafters are now working on quilt tops for the Alzheimer's Association charity. We'd love to have you join us. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-noon at Grace Parish Hall in Casanova. Materials will be provided – all you need to bring is your interest!

## Treasurer's Report – September Data

Income for the month of September was \$6,928.38 (budget \$9,450.00); expenditures totaled \$8,964.28 (budget \$9,450.00), resulting in a loss for the month of \$2,035.90.

Book value of the Endowment Fund is \$65,758.65; market value as of August 31 is \$67,295.80, a loss of \$1,139.34 for the month of August.

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

The crisp cool days of Fall are here - just a delightful time of the year and FMS is busier than ever. We are now providing non-perishable foods on a weekly/monthly basis for 60+ families along with the occasional "drop by". Often during deliveries someone will come up to the truck and ask, "Are you the good people? Can I have some?" We always carry a few extra bags to be shared as needed.

We have some good news: The new addition to our building is almost completed! It will be so helpful to the operation of this mission to have the extra space. As expected, the demand is increasing as we enter into the colder months. Please keep us in mind and remember that it is your generosity that enables this ministry to provide for the underserved in southern Fauquier County.

### *A Prayer for the Hungry*

*Dear Lord ~ Let us pray for those struggling from hunger and neglect all over the world. May we share and extend our blessings to empower those to flourish. Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Amen*



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.

## Souper Success!

The amazing and generous soup kitchen team has done it again! They prepared lovely fall themed 'care' packages/trays that included a wide variety of delicious homemade soups, cornbread muffins, and cookies with the finishing touch of colorful home-grown flowers in each tray. Who wouldn't be thrilled to receive one of these? If you know of someone (including yourselves) who would like to be one of the recipients the next time around – please contact Mignonne at 540 272-0014. We are eager to share with you! (P.S. Being a member of Grace Church is not a requirement.)

## Looking Ahead ...



### Casanova Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm

Grace Parish Hall

\*Caroling by the tree

\* Warm drinks & cookies inside

\*And a visit by Santa !

## Adopting a Family for Christmas

Grace is again fortunate to adopt a family for Christmas. Once we are given specific information about the number of people, ages, and needs, etc., we will update you with those details. Please sign up to purchase a gift so that we can share the joy of giving to others who might otherwise not have presents under a tree. Thank you in advance for your spirit of giving to those less fortunate during the holidays.



## *A Special Note from Our Organist*

November 5<sup>th</sup> will mark 34 years since you so kindly received me as organist at Grace Church. I cannot believe how quickly the time has flown nor how many wonderful things have occurred throughout!



It is my sincere hope that the music you hear each Sunday adds to your communion with God. In a very real sense, the music played is my personal offering to the worship of God and our Lord, Jesus Christ as well as a sharing and contribution to you as my fellow worshippers in our journey of spiritual development.

You may wonder how I select pieces for any particular Sunday. I will gladly reveal the 'mystery' behind it. Several factors come into play but the overriding one is a balance between the several musical pieces played during the service. Each one of these aims to enhance the spirituality of the moment but nevertheless is still linked to the others. Note that the offertory (played during the presentation of 'gifts of the people' and the interlude just before the Eucharist) lends itself to extended moments of reflection for the listener. Thankfully there is an impressively diverse compendium of classical composers: Bach, Handel, or Beethoven not to mention the piercing beauty of Mozart, Schubert, or Chopin, and my personal favorite, Liszt. Add to this a wellspring of more modern works and we find that there is no shortage of style and mood from which to choose.

Perhaps you have a particular favorite composer or piece of music that you would like to hear. If so, be assured that I am delighted whenever anyone expresses a desire to hear a particular selection of one kind or another whether it be a chorus, a favorite hymn, a medley, or a classic selection. So please don't hesitate to let me know your favorite for I am greatly honored to be asked to offer it.

At this point I would also wish to express tremendous gratitude for your kind words and generous compliments, warm smiles, handshakes and pats on the back along with the loving support and remembrance in prayer during my tenure as your organist.

Finally, cease not to pray for the evidence of the love of Christ in our lives.

Yours with sincere devotion to Christ and appreciation for all my friends at Grace,

*Michael*

## November Serving Schedule

| Day                                                                           | Readings                                                                            | Altar                                  | Assistant                           | Offertory      | Coffee Host       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b><i>The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br><b>Nov 5, 2023</b>   | Joshua 3:7-17<br>Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37<br>1 Thessalonians 2:9-13<br>Matthew 23:1-12  | N/A                                    | Judy Ball<br>(Reader St. Luke's)    | N/A            | N/A               |
| <b><i>The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br><b>Nov 12, 2023</b> | Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25<br>Psalm 78:1-7<br>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18<br>Matthew 25:1-13 | Barbara Jacobs/<br>Sharon Sweeney      | Bryan Jacobs                        | Sue Ballantine | Barbara Eanes     |
| <b><i>The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br><b>Nov 19, 2023</b>  | Judges 4:1-7<br>Psalm 123<br>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11<br>Matthew 25:14-30             | Carol Cordell/<br>Diane Gulick         | Judy Ball                           | Sue Payne      | Sue Ballantine    |
| <b><i>The Last Sunday after Pentecost</i></b><br><b>Nov 26, 2023</b>          | Ezekial 34:11-16,20-24<br>Psalm 100<br>Ephesians 1:15-23<br>Matthew 25:31-46        | Joy Goodenough/<br>Mignonne Spellmeyer | Howard Charnock/<br>Michael Calhoun | Joy G.         | Marilyn Ottevaere |

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