

Grace Notes



May 2024

Grace Episcopal Church

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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 9th. 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 19th 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,

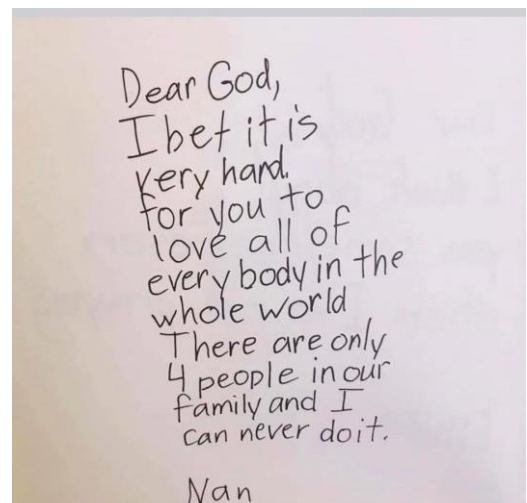


Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠



From the archives - I found this somewhat by chance online from a very old Grace Notes newsletter. I have been saving it for a prime opportunity to use it. This month just seemed a to be a good time. I hope you appreciate the humor and enjoy!

*The Editor,
(And a disclaimer for Fr. Michael)*



Treasurer's Report – March Data

Income for the month of March was \$14,992.27 (budget \$9,429.75); expenditures totaled \$12,029.83 (budget \$9,429.75), resulting in income for the month of \$2,962.44

Book value of the Endowment Fund is \$69,782.78; market value as of March 31 was \$75,986.13, a gain of \$1,675.65 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 Success



Thanks to your widespread support of the Annual Spring Dinner this past month, **Grace was delighted to pass on its share of net proceeds in the amount of \$654.68 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!



Mignonne's and Susan's flower arrangements really enhanced the Spring-time atmosphere. Thank you!



Some of the volunteers in the kitchen. Grace + Ruritans = a Great Team! THANK YOU for making this a success!!

May Calendar



- May 1 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- May 3 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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- May 5 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- May 7 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- May 8 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- May 10 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
- May 11 Sew What at 9:30am, Parish Hall  
  
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- May 12 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- May 14 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Soup Kitchen at 10am, Parish Hall
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- May 15 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- May 17 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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- May 19 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- May 21 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- May 22 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
- May 24 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Casanova Book Club, 12 noon, TBD  
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- May 26 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- May 28 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- May 29 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
- May 30 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall

A Reflection

Suffering, a universal human experience, transcends political opinions. It knows no boundaries, affiliations, or ideologies. Whether one stands on the left or the right, suffering remains impartial, affecting us all. In the depths of pain, we find our shared humanity, connecting us beyond the divisions of politics and beliefs.

Let us recognize this common thread, extending compassion to those who suffer, regardless of their political stance.

Source: Anonymous



Mission Possible ~ Soup Time Again !

It's time for our Spring Soup Kitchen! Volunteers are needed to make soup, cornbread, and cookies for this ongoing and deeply appreciated community outreach.

In addition to "stirring the soup pot" or putting on your baker's aprons, **packers, assemblers, and deliverers** are especially needed to complete the mission!

We will meet on Tuesday, May 14th at 10am at the Parish Hall. Please bring your pot of soup at 10am, so that we can assemble, label, and prepare the trays for those in our community who would appreciate some homemade soup for lunch or dinner. At our several last soup kitchens, we were able to get everything done and ready for delivery by 11:30am!

Your participation makes it all run smoothly, and it is a great way to touch base with those in our community who don't get out much and who would appreciate a personal visit in addition to a homemade tasty meal.

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



Do small things with great love.
Mother Teresa

Birthdays & Anniversaries for May



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
Bob & Julie Brewer	15 May
Bryan & Barbara Jacobs	15 May
Nellie Warren Escorcica	19 May
Bobbie Gouldthorpe	21 May
Karen Walton	21 May
Debbie Meador	25 May
Flavia Escorcica	26 May

May Serving Schedule

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
<i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024</i>	Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Bryan Jacobs	Joy G.	Joy Goodenough
<i>The Ascension May 9, 2024</i>	Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>The Seventh Sunday of Easter May 12, 2024</i>	Acts 1:15-17 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Joy Goodenough/ Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Sue Ballantine	Sue Ballantine
<i>The Day of Pentecost Whitsunday May 19, 2024</i>	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Carol Cordell/ Diane Gulick	Howard Charnock/ Michael Calhoun	Susan Payne	Barbara Eanes
<i>The First Sunday After Pentecost Trinity Sunday May 26, 2024</i>	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17	Joy Goodenough/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Judy Ball	Joy G.	Marilyn Ottevaere